

Egyptian, Sudanese officials meet

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt and Sudan, bickering neighbours whose relations have deteriorated for two years, met again Tuesday to try and resolve a long-simmering border dispute. Ali Muhammad Osama Yassin, Sudan's assistant foreign minister, met with President Hosni Mubarak's chief political adviser, Osama Al Baz, to discuss Halaib, the disputed area, and other problems. Following the meeting, Mr. Yassin said Dr. Baz sounded optimistic, and said their talks would continue for two more days. "We hope to reach a final solution to this subject, and we are now moving in a cordial and healthy way," Mr. Yassin said. Dr. Baz also spoke of ending the problem and said: "I believe there shouldn't be disputes between borders too difficult to solve." Halaib is a triangular enclave at the eastern end of the Egypt-Sudan border overlooking the Red Sea. Egypt claims Halaib under an 1899 agreement with Britain that set the frontier along the 22nd Parallel. Sudan, then a British-Egyptian condominium, was not a party to the pact. But Cairo gave the Sudanese administrative powers in the area in 1902 because Sudanese tribes inhabit the enclave. For its part, Sudan's military government claims Halaib is Sudanese. The dispute erupted last year when Khartoum granted a Canadian oil company and exploration concession off Halaib. Egypt immediately protested, and the Canadian company suspended its plans.



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Kuwait speaker sends cable to Jordan

AMMAN (R) — The speaker of Kuwait's new parliament, disregarding frozen relations since the Gulf war, has exchanged courtesy messages with the speaker of Jordan's Upper House, Ahmad Lawzi. The cable from Kuwait was believed to be the first public communication between the two countries since the war, in which Jordan did not join the western-led alliance against Iraq. The Kuwaiti speaker, Ahmad Al Saudoun, is an opposition figure who was speaker of the previous parliament suspended in 1986. His cable thanked Mr. Lawzi for a message of congratulations on his election.

'Qatari ambassador back in Baghdad'

BAGHDAD (AP) — Qatar, which like other Gulf Arab countries has had strained relations with Iraq since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, has restored its embassy in Baghdad to normal status, the government said Tuesday. The Information Ministry confirmed a report in the newspaper Al-Khaleej that Qatari Ambassador Mohammed Ben Rashid Al Khalifa returned to Baghdad Monday "after his country decided to resume its diplomatic mission in Iraq." The move comes amid a border dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which leads the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that also includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Russian envoy to Bahrain dies

BAHRAIN (AP) — Russian Ambassador Anatoli Gavriushenko died of a heart attack at dawn Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry announced. He was 53. The ministry statement, circulated by the official Gulf News Agency, expressed condolences and said the body would be flown home Thursday. The statement stressed that the ambassador "worked with all seriousness and sincerity in developing relations of friendship" between the two countries.

U.N. offers to help Mideast fight drugs

NICOSIA (R) — The head of a United Nations drug combating agency told a conference of Arab and Gulf states in Tehran Tuesday he was ready to help regional efforts to fight illegal trade in narcotics. Iran's official news agency IRNA said Giorgio Giacomelli, executive director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, stressed the need for a regional response to counter drug smuggling. "Because of the transnational character of drug production and trafficking, programmes should be pursued and harmonised at the sub-regional and regional levels," IRNA quoted him as saying.

Briton treated well in Baghdad jail

LONDON (AP) — A Briton serving a 10-year jail sentence in Baghdad for illegally entering Iraq is being treated well, Michael Wainwright's sister said Tuesday. In a letter home, Mr. Wainwright said he was in good spirits and enjoying the company of his cell mates, fellow Briton Paul Ride and three Swedish prisoners. Mr. Wainwright was arrested in May after crossing the border from Turkey into the Kurdish area of northern Iraq during a round-the-world cycling trip. He said Iraqi guards let him in.

Egypt to sign new MF deal on time

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will sign a new economic reform agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on schedule next month, Prime Minister Atef Sedki said in remarks published Tuesday. "Prime Minister Atef Sedki confirmed that Egypt will sign talks with the IMF early next month and that the agreement between Egypt and the fund will be signed next month and signed next January," the semi-official Al-Ahram reported. Mr. Sedki's comments were the first public statement on sensitive negotiations with the IMF since a summit of ministers returned from Washington in September.

Israelis keep up fierce bombardment of Lebanon

Tank forces move into southern Lebanon

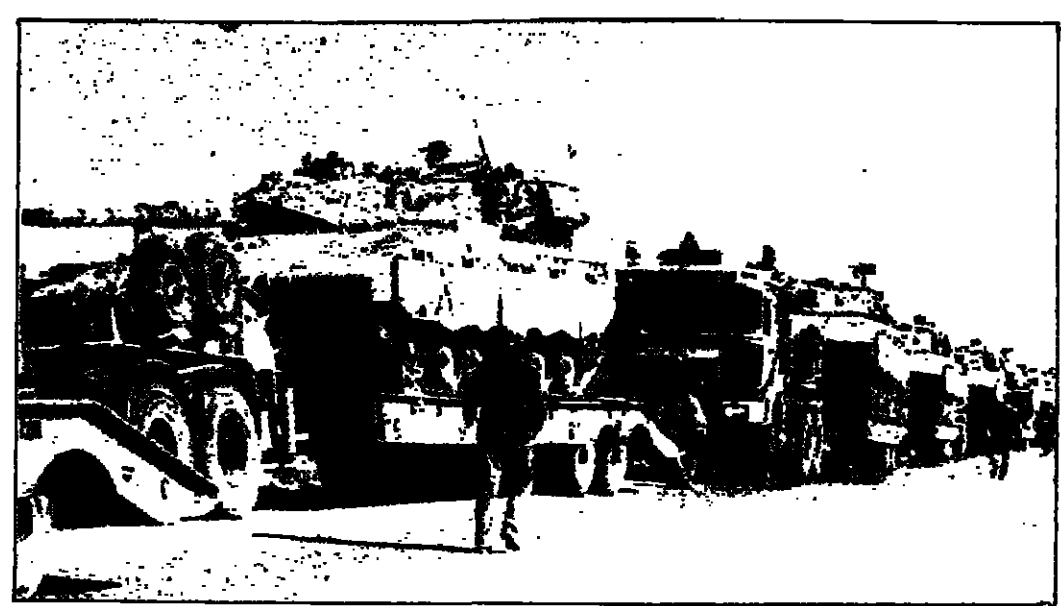
TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes and artillery blasted targets in Lebanon for a second day Tuesday in retaliation for the bomb slaying of five Israeli soldiers and a rocket attack that killed a teenager. The fighting came as the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talks was under way in Washington and played into the hands of hardliners on both sides. It also brought pleas to continue searching for a peaceful solution to the bloody conflict that has divided the region for four decades. Israeli Radio said Israeli tanks crossed into the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" after the attack but military sources denied there was mass movement into the zone. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed to avenge the rocket barrage but he said Israel would not stop peace talks with

Lebanon and other Arab neighbours. Israeli Radio said two hours after Mr. Rabin spoke that "an armoured force" had crossed into the zone where Israel has about 1,000 troops alongside 3,000 allied Lebanese militiamen. It gave no other details in the report which cleared military censorship. Israel does not normally release details of military operations until they are over. Israel last thrust out of the zone in fighting with Hizbollah guerrillas in February. An army spokesman said tanks and troops had moved northward within Israel but would not confirm or deny the report by the radio, which broke into its scheduled programmes with the news. "There is at this time no intention to carry out a widespread Israeli attack in Lebanon but if there continues to be a worsening in the steps taken by the terror-

ists, this policy will be reconsidered," the source, who declined to be identified, told Reuters. Reuters reporters at the border said there had been no obvious troop movements or shelling since the Katyusha attack. A rocket crashed into a four-storey apartment building in a working-class area of Kiryat Shmona at dawn, killing Vadim Shuchmann, an immigrant from the former Soviet Union who was sleeping on a porch. Five relatives were injured. In Lebanon, security sources said a rocket killed a Lebanese schoolteacher and his 18-month-old son in the "security zone." Israeli warplanes hit Hizbollah targets in the Bekaa after the attack. The rocket attack followed a fierce Israeli air and artillery bombardment of South Lebanon on Monday — itself in retaliation for the killing of five Israeli sol-

diers there on Sunday. Hizbollah said it blew up the soldiers in a road ambush. Israeli gunners pounded southern Lebanon overnight but by midday on Tuesday the border was quiet. Mr. Rabin told reporters an Israeli withdrawal from peace talks would be a victory for Hizbollah which wanted to wreck the negotiations that began a year ago this week. At least 13 people have been killed and 35 wounded in Israel and Lebanon since the current wave of hostilities erupted Sunday, authorities said. It was the heaviest confrontation since February when three weeks of fighting erupted after Israeli helicopters ambushed a convoy in Lebanon, killing Sheikh Abbas Musawi, leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

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Israeli tanks on carriers halt at the Lebanese border Tuesday before moving into southern Lebanon to reinforce the troops already stationed there (AFP photo)

Jordan, Israel still in agenda debate; Palestinians table human rights

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jordan and Israel Tuesday exchanged views on the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli track in the Arab-Israeli peace talks currently underway in Washington, chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Al Majali said. He said the two sides exchanged views on an agenda that might be acceptable to both parties. "Proposals on the agenda were presented by both sides and there were attempts to unify these proposals in a manner acceptable to the two parties," he said. He said some progress was achieved on some points in the agenda, but stressed that progress should be made in drafting the agenda as a whole rather than in

certain points in the agenda. "If the same spirit which prevailed in today's meeting continues, we believe that we will soon reach agreement on a joint agenda," he said. Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators took up the issue of human rights in the occupied territories while Israel's military pounded guerrilla targets in retaliatory strikes inside Lebanon. President George Bush, in an interview on NBC's "Today" show, said Tuesday that he hoped the peace talks would survive the latest outburst of violence in the Mideast. "I would hope that nothing would come up that would derail them. ... In my view, they've gone far enough that no incident

would derail the talks," Mr. Bush said. The president said he knew nothing about reports that Israeli tanks had moved into Israel's self-designated "security zone" in southern Lebanon. "In the talks, the Israelis are examining a 12-point Palestinian proposal for enhancing the protection of human rights for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. After three hours of discussion Monday, the head of the Palestinian delegation, Haidar Abdul Shafi, told reporters the proposal includes guarantees against Israel's expulsion of Palestinians, demolition of homes, destroying

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3 Israelis wounded in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians wounded three Israelis in two attacks in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday, the Israeli army said. The attacks were the latest in a spate of violence in the occupied territories and South Lebanon since Middle East peace talks resumed in Washington last week. An army spokeswoman said unknown assailants shot and wounded an Israeli couple shopping at a market near the West Bank town of Jenin. The man was seriously wounded and his wife suffered light wounds. An army statement said the woman opened fire at the attackers, who escaped. The army imposed a curfew on the area which is just across the green line separating Israel from the West Bank. At a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian man backed an Israeli with an axe and lightly injured him, military sources said. He was rushed to a hospital in southern Israel. Israeli leaders say Palestinian hardliners are stepping up guerrilla attacks to undermine the peace talks. On Monday, an Israeli farmer driving a tractor was injured by a firebomb in the occupied West Bank, the army said. "An Israeli citizen reported tonight he was hit by a firebomb while driving a tractor near the village of Haleb in the Tulkarm area," a spokeswoman said. "The bomb ignited and the driver was injured. He was evacuated to hospital by Arab residents. The army imposed a curfew on the area and is conducting searches."

Sahnoun quits as Somalia envoy

MOGADISHU (AP) — The U.N. agency in Somalia Tuesday confirmed that its special envoy, who openly criticised the U.N. relief operation to the starving country, has resigned. Diplomats at U.N. headquarters said Monday that they understood Mohammed Sahnoun was resigning after being reprimanded by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for criticising the world body's delay in sending relief to Somalia.

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Turkish armour rolls into Iraq to fight rebel Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has sent tanks into northern Iraq to bolster its campaign against Kurdish separatist guerrillas, military officials said Tuesday. "Tanks are generally used for deep inward thrusts but our aim is definitely not to advance further. This is a security operation that will cover only the border and its adjoining areas," a senior military officer told Reuters. "I stress that this operation is not meant to move the thrust deeper into Iraq." Twenty Turkish tanks crossed the Hezli River that forms part of the border north of the Iraqi town of Zakho Monday. Officials said the tank units had linked up with Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas, completing a pincer

movement to close off escape routes for the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Turkish planes and about 5,000 troops are fighting the PKK in at least two other border regions, extending eastwards to the Iranian frontier. An Iraqi Kurdish leader in the town of Salahuddin said PKK forces to the east in the remote Hakur valley where the borders of Iraq, Turkey and Iraq meet, had asked for peace talks. "They sent us a (radio) message out of desperation saying they wanted to talk," Kurdish Democratic Party spokesman Khoshar Zailari told reporters. Other reports had suggested

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Jordan reaffirms quest for comprehensive peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to achieving a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict and stressed that separate solutions would weaken the Arab stand and can by no means lead to the aspired peace. "Jordan firmly believes in a just and comprehensive peace which can benefit all Arab countries," Sharif Zeid said at a meeting with delegates attending a two-day conference to discuss peace in the Middle East and issues of concern to the countries of the region. Jordan, he said, also strives to bring about Arab unity to protect common Arab interests. The prime minister wished the conference and Arab peace groups success in achieving the objective of world peace and stability. Khaled Mahieddin, head of a coordinating committee of world peace groups, voiced the conference's appreciation of Jordan for its support.

Earlier Tuesday the delegates resumed their meeting, and most of the speakers tackled the intifada and the need for extending further support for Palestinians worldwide. They noted that fresh efforts should be made on the part of the Arab countries to bring the Palestine question to the world community's attention. The speakers said the role of the United Nations had been diluted due to the influence of the United States and Israel and their objection's a meaningful U.N. role in the peace process. In addition to participants from the Arab World, the meeting was attended by delegates from the World Peace Council and a European centre for coordinating the world peace movements from Arab, European and North American states. The meeting, organised by the Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee, was attended by 40 personalities, mostly politicians.

Canadians reject reforms to settle Quebec dispute

OTTAWA (R) — Canadians soundly rejected a national unity deal Monday, putting Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's future in doubt and furthering the cause of those who want Quebec to split from the country. Almost complete returns from a national referendum showed that six of the 10 provinces had rejected the agreement aimed at giving Quebec more autonomy to settle a decades-old dispute over its role in Canada. Mr. Mulroney admitted that the agreement, which was painstakingly negotiated over a year, was now a footnote of history. He ruled out further constitutional reform talks with Quebec for now. "The problems that faced us as a nation... remain," a glum-looking Mulroney told a news conference. "The difference tonight is that we know that we will not be able to resolve them in

the foreseeable future, at least through constitutional initiatives alone." Mr. Mulroney left without taking questions from reporters. With all of the ballots tallied in Quebec, 56.6 per cent of voters had rejected the constitutional reform proposals and 43.4 per cent voted in favour. The agreement was rejected in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Only in some small Atlantic coast provinces was the vote strongly in favour of the deal. In Ontario, the most populous province, the vote was too close to call for hours before a narrow endorsement of the agreement was announced. The package of amendments was designed to keep Quebec in Canada's 125-year federation by offering the province guarantees for the survival of its culture and share of political power.

Hassan II on shuttle diplomacy

ABU DHABI (R) — Morocco's King Hassan was to return to Saudi Arabia Tuesday, continuing his shuttle diplomacy to try to reconcile Arab differences and promote the Middle East peace process. A Moroccan official told Reuters the king would hold further talks in Tabuk in western Saudi Arabia and would "see someone, maybe King Fahd." The official would not elaborate on why King Hassan was flying back to Saudi Arabia, where he spent three days before coming to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday. The king will later visit Jordan, Syria and Egypt. Arab officials and diplomats said the king, the only Arab leader outside Egypt to have open contact with Israel, was carrying proposals to promote the Arab-Israeli peace talks. He was also working to settle inter-Arab differences sparked by territorial disputes and the Gulf crisis.

Morocco's Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali told Reuters on Monday reconciliation among Arab states was crucial to the success of the Middle East peace talks. But he declined to speculate on the chances that King Hassan would achieve a breakthrough on his first Arab tour in 30 years. "Since the Gulf war, there is no contact between some Arab leaders," Mr. Filali said but did not name them. Asked about speculation in the Gulf that King Hassan was trying to arrange a meeting between King Fahd and King Hussein, Mr. Filali said: "If they have to discuss (the peace talks), of course they have to arrive at a reconciliation. Maybe some of them have to forget the recent past and disputes. They can't stay in a negative position." Jordanian officials and diplomats hope King Hassan's stopover in Amman on Wednesday will

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Better marketing, funds could help Jordan's sluggish tourism

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

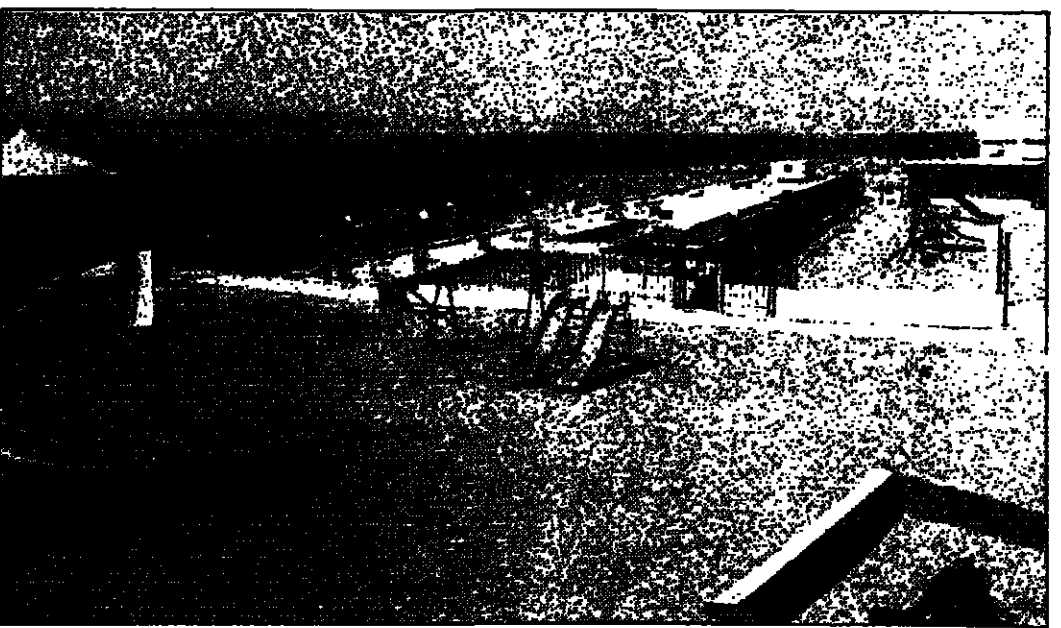
AMMAN — Eighteen of 60 potential first time tourists surveyed said they could not name Jordan's capital; even more admitted the Kingdom's touristic jewels — Aqaba and Petra — did not ring a bell. Combine that with a paucity state tourism budget and poorly coordinated marketing strategy and the end result is that Jordan has to work hard to attract visitors, according to a report published on tourism in the country. But although hard work is involved, tourists are coming and the industry, the report and local tour agents say, is set to boom. Although Jordan has rebuilt this industry after losing most of its well-known tourist attractions in the West Bank in 1967, the market must diversify into distinct segments to win the battle for people seeking adventure, pil-

grimage and sun. Meanwhile, tourism marketing policy-makers still have to resolve the problem of Jordan being seen as a country surrounded by regional conflicts. According to the report's image survey, based on 1988 data and incorporated in the 1992 report by the Arab British Commerce magazine, 18 per cent of those surveyed indicated war on their list of expectations when visiting Jordan. That percentage was expected to increase after the Gulf war and the report says marketing should emphasise Jordan's tranquility. The survey's results show "a major lack of knowledge of Jordan even among well-educated British citizens," said the report. The report proposes that tour agents offer packages in six categories of tourism: cultural, desert, beach, health, pilgrimage and business. "Jordan's combination of historical, archaeological, Biblical

and natural sites is advantageous in making the country a diverse holiday destination," said the report researched by two senior London University lecturers. International Traders, one of Jordan's largest tour companies, agrees tourism needs to be segmented, particular groups targeted and the market diversified to minimise the risk of concentrating on a few tourist-generating countries. Europeans, excluding U.K. visitors, for example, spend an average of five nights in Jordan and, unlike Americans, are less likely to cancel their trip because of regional conflicts, the report said. Jordan, therefore, should be promoted "as a destination in itself" to extend European stay. The report added that European tourists mainly come to Jordan to explore the culture and because the Kingdom is part of a regional tour including stops in Syria,

Egypt, and the Holy Land. As for Americans, marketing must focus on Jordan as a serene, peaceful nation, emphasising pilgrimages to the West Bank. Ninety-five per cent of U.S. visitors in 1990 combined the West Bank with their visit to Jordan, spending about three nights in the Kingdom, the report said. "The motivation of U.S. visitors is clearly used in Israel's marketing policy of promoting tourism to the occupied West Bank. It is therefore apparent that any marketing effort to attract U.S. tourists to Jordan as the main holiday destination is unlikely to succeed unless pilgrimage tourism is fully developed," the report said. The report added that secondary Biblical sites in Jordan, mainly related to the Old Testament, could be promoted to attract Christian pilgrims from

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'A major lack of knowledge of Jordan' is widespread among potential foreign tourists, but something must be done for such empty beaches to bubble with life

Arafat appeals to Bush, Yeltsin to help break deadlock in talks

TUNIS (AP) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday he has sent letters to President George Bush and other world leaders seeking their intervention to break the logjam in Middle East peace talks, which he blamed on Israel.

Speaking in an interview at his office in Tunis, Mr. Arafat, 63, said the letter to the U.S. president was sent through Tunisian President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali.

The United States has had no official contact with the PLO since July 1990, when an 18-month dialogue was severed because of an abortive attempt by a PLO faction to attack Israeli beaches.

Mr. Arafat said the letters included his assessment of the Middle East peace process on the first anniversary of the Madrid conference which marked the start of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

After seven rounds of talks, six of them in Washington, no major breakthrough has been reported on the Palestinian issue. Syria, Jordan and Lebanon also are involved in separate negotiations with Israel.

Mr. Arafat said similar letters

were sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the co-sponsor of the peace talks, as well as Britain, France and China, the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

He urged them to push for placing the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, under international supervision.

Mr. Arafat said he has instructed the PLO's observer mission at the United Nations to seek a Security Council meeting to "take responsibility in protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories."

Mr. Arafat said: "We have been patient for 45 years and look what we got... occupation, coercion, detention, terrorism, starvation, expulsion and assassinations."

He repeated his accusation that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, widely regarded as a moderate compared to his hardline predecessor Yitzhak Shamir who headed the Israeli government when the peace talks started, has made no new offers to help move the talks forward.

"Rabin is continuing the same policies of Shamir and he is following his path... his aim is to waste time and make the talks

last for 10 years," Mr. Arafat said.

The PLO has been physically excluded from the peace talks, but it is known to have made the decisions for the negotiators speaking on behalf of the Palestinians. Senior Arafat representatives accompany the 14-member delegation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to each round of talks.

Mr. Arafat avoided questions about the progress reportedly made on the Syrian-Israeli track after Mr. Rabin offered Syria a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

PLO officials have expressed concern that Israel was making such offers to break up Arab solidarity.

The Israelis have rejected Palestinian demands for a commitment to a withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a proposed interim period of limited self-rule. That has blocked any progress in the peace talks.

"Apparently the Israeli policy aims at buying time and floating the issue, especially where the Palestinians are concerned," Mr. Arafat said. "The aim is to freeze the Palestinian track."



WRECKAGE: A Lebanese policeman Tuesday day before on positions of resistance forces east of Sidon in southern Lebanon (AFP photo)

Iran-based groups want southern Iraq 'haven'

Pan-Arab nationalists boycott meeting

SALEHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Iran-based Iraqi Shi'ite groups want the United Nations to declare southern Iraq a "safe haven" protected if necessary by Western warplanes now patrolling an air exclusion zone.

"The air exclusion (in southern Iraq) should be expanded to cover what happens on the ground. The powers that now operate the exclusion zone should be under U.N. mandate," Ali Al Adib of the Islamic Da'wa Party told Reuters Tuesday.

"We are all agreed on this," he said, referring to the six Shi'ite groups in the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

The first meeting of the leaders of Iraq's disparate opposition groups, under the umbrella of the newly-formed Iraqi national congress, was expected to begin in this northern Iraq mountain resort later in the day.

It will be the first time the leaders have come together on Iraqi soil to plan President Saddam Hussein's downfall and chart the future of post-Saddam Iraq. Most of northern Iraq is in the hands of Iraqi Kurdish opposition groups protected by Western warplanes across the border in Turkey.

Red-beretted military police in khaki battledress were out in force in Salehuddin, alongside baggy-troused Kurdish guerrillas and Turkmen troops dressed in jungle camouflage with pale blue cravats.

Al Adib said in principle, the Shi'ite groups were against the involvement of the Western allies patrolling the south — Britain, France and the United States, but he said the threat of force had to be used to compel Iraq to withdraw its troops from the mainly Shi'ite region.

"We, the Iraqi opposition, will ask the U.N. to protect the south and allow us to set up an opposition there," he said.

The West set up the air exclusion zone two months ago saying they want to protect Shi'ite dissidents in the southern marshes from Iraqi air attack.

Mr. Adib said it would be a catastrophe if the U.N. did not agree to protect the south. He said thousands of Shi'ites had been rounded up there in the past few weeks.

"There should be U.N. observers in the south and the one-and-a-half million refugees who fled over the last 12 or 13 years should be allowed back."

Mr. Adib said the main issue to be discussed at the conference

should be how to get rid of President Saddam.

Other issues, such as the future political shape of Iraq, could be discussed later, he said.

Iraqi Kurds are anxious to see a federal system set up in post-Saddam Iraq and have elected their own parliament.

The Iran-based delegates said Iraq's future direction should be decided only after elections were held, although they did not strongly object to the concept of a federation.

Nasser haider, political director of the Amal Islami group, said confidence-building was one of the key issues to be discussed during the next few days.

Nationalists boycott talks

Six Iraqi Arab nationalists groups said Tuesday they were boycotting opposition conference.

But a SCIRI spokesman said the group had sent a delegation to the conference.

A SCIRI spokesman said its leader, Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim, was not among its delegates who left from Damascus and Tehran. Other SCIRI officials said there were indications Sheikh Hakim might change his mind.

Mahdi Al-Obeidi, a spokesman for the six groups staying away from the meeting, told Reuters it would be dominated and directed by pro-Western elements.

"The West, particularly the United States, are not trying to serve the Iraqi people. They are trying to partition Iraq and achieve what serves their own purposes," Mr. Obeidi said.

Obeidi said the six members of the alliance were: The Baath Socialist Party, the Independent Group, the Iraqi Socialist Party, the Arab Socialist Movement, the Nassirite Unionist Gathering and the National Reconciliation Group.

Kurdish opposition leader Jalal Talabani had urged the Syrian-based groups to attend the conference. He said a message was sent to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to encourage them to take part.

But Mr. Obeidi said his alliance opposed discussing several issues due to be raised at the conference, such as a possible confederation between Arabs and Kurds in Iraq and the subject of safe havens.

He said his group feared that such Western-backed zones in parts of Iraq would lead to partition of the country.

'Islamic Jihad' threatens Cypriot judges

NICOSIA (AP) — A letter purportedly sent by Lebanon's notorious Islamic Jihad has threatened Cypriot judges with reprisals if a man arrested on counterfeit charges is not released, the Cyprus News Agency reported.

The semiofficial agency quoted police spokesman Nicos Makrides as saying that the letter was sent to the central prison in Nicosia, where the suspect, Taled Mohammad Abdul Monhem, is being held pending trial next month.

There was no way to verify if the letter indeed was from the pro-Iran, Shi'ite Muslim Islamic Jihad which is based in Lebanon. The group gained notoriety in the 1980s for bombing American and other Western targets in Lebanon and kidnapping U.S. and European citizens last December.

Mr. Makrides refused to divulge the contents of the letter, saying the matter was under investigation.

The daily newspaper Simerini said the letter, mailed from Lebanon, said: "Released immediately Imam Taled Mohammad Abdul Monhem. We shall attack Cypriot judges."

The 28-year-old Lebanese, a Shi'ite Muslim, was arrested on arrival at Larnaca airport, the island's main international facility, last August. Mr. Makrides was quoted by the Cyprus agency as saying.

It was not clear from the report where Abdul Monhem was coming from. But Mr. Makrides said police found 292 forged \$100 notes in his possession.

Abdul Monhem, the spokesman said, had been sought by police because on a previous trip to Cyprus earlier in August he changed \$100 notes at a commercial bank which later were found to be forged.

It was not clear why Islamic Jihad would seek the release of Abdul Monhem and make no reference to Omar Ahmad Hawilo, a confessed activist serving a 15-year jail term for a bungled attempt to blow up the Israeli embassy in Nicosia in 1989.

Cyprus has often been caught in the crossfire as the Israelis and Arabs chased each other in an underground warfare over the past four decades.

It also has been for years a favourite transit stop for drug smugglers coming from Lebanon.

Rabbani likely to remain in place

KABUL (R) — The two candidates for the Afghan interim presidency dropped out of the race Tuesday, leaving the way clear for incumbent Burhanuddin Rabbani to retain his temporary hold on power.

Mr. Rabbani, interim president of the Islamic government that replaced the former communist rulers in April, is due to step down Wednesday at the end of a four-month term with no successor named and a power vacuum in sight.

Favourite to succeed him has been elderly clergyman Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, the leader of a small Mujahadeen party and a Pashtun — Afghanistan's largest tribe and its traditional rulers.

"The people are asking for him to accept the responsibility but he has refused," said Maulvi Mohammad Shah Fazli, Mr. Mohammadi's representative on the leadership council, an uneasy coalition of leaders of the nine main Mujahadeen parties.

"I can't accept because the situation is not stable, the people are suffering a lot and we have nothing to help them," he quoted Mr. Mohammadi as saying. Mr. Mohammadi has left Kabul for the Pakistani city of Peshawar because of poor health, he said.

The second candidate to drop out was Syed Ahmad Gailani, another Pashtun and the revered leader of the small national Islamic Front for Afghanistan party.

"I'm in favour of that President Rabbani should continue now that there is some slight stability here," he said in an interview.

Mr. Gailani said Mr. Rabbani should continue for a month to arrange a council of nationwide representatives that will decide on the structure of the first permanent government since the end of the 14-year civil war against the Soviet-backed rulers.

Mr. Gailani did not rule out standing for president at the council meeting. "It is my right," he said.

Diplomats say Mujahadeen chiefs are reluctant to



George Vassiliou



Rauf Denktaş

Cyprus talks hit snags over titles

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The troubled Cyprus talks ran into more trouble on their opening day as Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş boycotted his first session to protest what he called U.N. bias in favour of the Greek Cypriot "presidency."

Mr. Denktaş refused to attend his scheduled joint meeting on Monday with Cypriot President George Vassiliou, representing the Greek Cypriot community. But he paid a brief, late courtesy call on Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, noting it was not part of the Cyprus talks.

U.N. officials and foreign diplomats were meeting with both sides Monday night to keep the latest round of talks from being derailed. It was not known whether talks would be scheduled Tuesday.

Mr. Denktaş told a news conference later that both men must be referred to only as "leaders" of their equal communities in U.N. statements and that Mr. Vassiliou must be called "president."

He said Turkish Cypriots do not recognise Mr. Vassiliou as the president of all Cyprus. It was not known whether Mr. Vassiliou would agree to a downgrading of his political status in order to keep the talks alive.

The Vassiliou government holds the Cyprus seat at the United Nations. There was no comment from U.N. officials.

Before the talks opened, diplomats and officials here and in Cyprus has expressed pessimism about the talks and Mr. Denktaş's protest Monday appeared to confirm the bleak

expectations.

Mr. Denktaş told reporters that he protested the secretary-general's written appointment list which referred to Vassiliou as the president of the state of Cyprus, while Mr. Denktaş was called only the "leader" of the Turkish Cypriot community.

He said he was placed in an "impossible position" in terms of public opinion at home. "I am therefore not in a position ... to attend today's meeting," he said in a letter of protest to Mr. Ghali.

"However, I am ready for the continuation of the talks under accepted procedures, on an equal footing." He said a new agenda must be issued.

Mr. Vassiliou met Mr. Ghali earlier in the day and showed up for his later joint session with Mr. Denktaş.

Mr. Denktaş is known as the president of the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus, a breakaway republic established in 1983 and recognised only by Turkey. But at the United Nations he commonly is known as the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community and he has not publicly objected previously.

The daily U.N. list of the secretary-general's appointments Monday referred to Mr. George Vassiliou, president of Cyprus, and His Excellency Mr. Rauf Denktaş, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Similar descriptions have been used previously. Mr. Denktaş said they have been protested every time and said he had been told that they were the result of mere oversights.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Al Sawwa 732056
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi 646024
Dr. Hanna Mansour 730197
Dr. Yusef Samour 615448
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asami pharmacy 837055
Nairoudh pharmacy 635672
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Nairoudh pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630441
Rescue 630441
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Road Block 775121
Highway Police 843602
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 603021
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs:
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 644412
Lebanese Maternity 62262
Mallat, J. Amn. 636140
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Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mawda Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 771013
Al-Sunni, J. Ashrafieh 775112/28
Army, Marha 891610/15
Queen Alla Hospital 6224030
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)903650
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)990990
IBRAHIM:
Firasat Basmal Hospital (02)25535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)22225
Bo Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247101
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (05)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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07:30 Athens (RJ)
07:45 London (RJ)
08:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
08:30 Istanbul (RJ)
08:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
09:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
09:15 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
09:30 Rome (RJ)
09:45 Damascus (RJ)

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti minister ends Qatar visit

DUBAI (R) — Kuwait's foreign minister left Doha Tuesday following talks on settling a border dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The Qatari News Agency (QNA) said Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah flew home, but did not elaborate. The Kuwaiti minister had talks in Saudi Arabia Sunday. Kuwaiti officials said the minister carried messages from the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to the Saudi and Qatari rulers as part of mediation efforts to end the feud. Qatar had accused Saudi Arabia of killing three people in an attack on a border post on Sept. 30. Saudi Arabia denied it was involved and said the clash was between nomadic bedouins from both countries.

Afghanistan asks for U.N., Islamic aid

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's leadership council appealed Monday for aid from the United Nations and Islamic states to organise a nationwide meeting that will choose a permanent Islamic government. The council, an uneasy alliance of disparate Mujahadeen parties, is trying to arrange the meeting of representatives from across the war-ravaged country in the next few weeks. Interim President Burhanuddin Rabbani is to step down on Wednesday at the end of his four-month term, leaving a virtual vacuum until the conference meets to decide on the first permanent government since the end of the 14-year civil war. The council appealed to the U.N. and members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to send financial assistance for the complicated procedure of selecting representatives to the conference, a spokesman said. It also asked for aid to help Afghanistan survive its first winter since the fall of the former Soviet-backed government, which collapsed last April allowing the Mujahadeen to take power.

Bosnian president in Gulf to seek aid

ABU DHABI (R) — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has arrived in the United Arab Emirates on his first visit to the oil-rich Gulf region to seek the help of fellow Muslims in the fight against Serbs. The Emirates News Agency said Mr. Izetbegovic was to hold several days of talks in the UAE, one of several Gulf and Arab countries that have poured in millions of dollars to Bosnian Muslims fighting Serb forces opposed to Bosnian independence. It was not known which other Gulf states Mr. Izetbegovic plans to visit. He arrived in the UAE Monday night. The news agency quoted him as saying that Bosnian Muslims were victims of "a fierce onslaught by the Serb forces" (see page 5) and hoped that the "Arab and friendly countries will provide aid to help us stand up to the aggression."

Extremists suspected in robbery of Christian shop

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected Muslim extremist gunmen killed two men in a Christian-owned jewelry store and stole gold worth more than a quarter of a million pounds (\$84,000), the Middle East News Agency said Tuesday. The government-owned agency reported that an unidentified security official said Monday night's robbery was identical to a series of heists by Muslim extremists two years ago. Police said those robberies of Christian gold merchants were to finance terrorist operations. In the latest incident, in a suburban Cairo village, four gunmen firing automatic weapons killed the shop's owner and his assistant. The gunmen sped away on two motorcycles with seven kilograms of gold, the agency said. At Tuesday's prices, that's worth 276,460 pounds (\$84,000).

Qadhafi bars drinkers, card-players from office

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyans who drink alcohol, play cards or are married to foreigners cannot become ambassadors or assume other positions of responsibility, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Monday. Speaking to an assembly of committees overseeing the country's new "commune" system of local government, he said drinking and playing cards were distractions from work and could not be tolerated in public offices. Alcohol was banned in Libya shortly after Colonel Qadhafi came to power in 1969. No Libyan who married a foreigner, including other Arab nationalities, could be put forward for public office, he said.

Iraq bank loan prosecutor named

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Attorney-General William Barr Monday named a federal prosecutor to direct the newly-formed task force investigating illegal loans to Iraq by an Italian bank's Atlanta branch. He announced that J. William Roberts from Illinois, a federal state prosecutor for 25 years, would take over the Justice Department's controversial investigation surrounding the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro case. ("Roberts" will make certain that every facet of this complex case will be vigorously pursued in the highest professional manner and that the rule of law will be upheld impartially and completely," Mr. Barr said in a statement. The Justice Department's handling of the case has come under criticism from Democrats in Congress and the entire matter has become a major political embarrassment for President George Bush in his reelection bid.

King Fahd receives French messages

DUBAI (R) — French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe met King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Monday and gave him a message from President Francois Mitterrand, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. Mr. Joxe arrived in Jeddah on Sunday for an official visit to Saudi Arabia. France sent thousands of troops to Saudi Arabia in 1990 to help drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

9 guerrillas, policeman killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Gendarmes killed nine Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas, including a top ranking commander, in weekend clashes around Algiers, the official news agency APS reported Monday. Unknown gunmen killed a policeman outside his home in a suburb of the capital, state television reported. APS said that Abdelnacer Lemli, 46, who was killed in a clash Sunday night near Mohammadia 300 kilometres west of Algiers, was a lieutenant of underground fundamentalist chief Abdelkader Chabouti. A former high school teacher, he had been hunted by police since the start of the year when Algeria's experiment in democracy was scrapped and fundamentalists, who were on the verge of winning a general election, were driven underground.

JORDAN TELEVISION
PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 De Cinq
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Saved by the Bell
21:45 Wednesday forum
21:50 Quedo
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Court Breakout

FRAYER TIMES
04:20 Fair
05:40 (Sunrise) Doha
11:20 Dhair
14:30 'Aar
17:00 Maghrob
18:17 'Idha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400
Pis la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternavola Church Tel. 622649

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 11 / 25
Aqaba 18 / 30
Dahab 9 / 26
Jordan Valley 16 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

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08:30 Istanbul (RJ)
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09:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
09:1



Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Tuesday meets with Apostolic delegate of Jerusalem Monsignor Andrea di Montezemolo and Ignace Raouf Najjar.

Vatican stand vis-a-vis Mideast unchanged

AMMAN (J.T.) — The visiting apostolic delegate of Jerusalem Monsignor Andrea di Montezemolo Tuesday reiterated the Vatican's position towards the basic issues of the Middle East region, stressing that the Vatican supports all U.N. solutions which should be applied to the occupied territories. The Vatican's position with regard to the region's basic issues remain unchanged in content despite the new forms of contacts at could be underway with any of the concerned parties, said the delegate at a meeting with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber. A statement came in the course of the discussions of Middle East developments and the Palestine question.

The Vatican, Msgr. Montezemolo added has its own interests in the region which it wishes to protect.

The delegate said that the Pope is frequently expressing his desire to perform the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. But no date has been fixed for such a visit, despite reports last week said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres visited the Vatican and invited the Pope to visit Israel.

"The policy is not directly involved in the peace talks in the sense that it is not part of the present dialogue, but the Holy See is very involved in order to defend the right of every (one), in order to... establish peace and a real peace, not just some talk," the envoy told Jordan Television.

"We established quite recently a bilateral commission between the Holy See and Israel in order to discuss common problems, problems of mutual interest and possibly reaching a normalisation of relations. That is not the same as to say diplomatic relations. Normalisation means that we have to talk about many problems, to discuss, to negotiate and possibly eventually at a certain moment to also establish diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Israel when the situation will allow it."

"I am not aware of any formal invitations," for the Pope to visit Israel, he said. "But I know that the Pope had been talking on many occasions about his desire to come to the Middle East as a pilgrim and to visit (occupied) Jerusalem and I understand that the Pope also repeated that to the minister of foreign affairs of Israel when he was last Friday received; just repeating that he would like one day, without fixing any day to come to the Middle East as a pilgrim. The date will be fixed when the situation will allow it."

Qattan pleads not guilty

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Iyad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), pleaded not guilty Monday at the Court of First Instance to charges of slandering the Lower House of Parliament.

"It is a direct threat to me as RCC director," Dr. Qattan said after the session, which was adjourned till Nov. 4. "They have achieved their objective. If a leading personality is being tried for criticising Parliament's performance, then citizens will not dare say anything voice or direct criticism of Parliament," Mr. Qattan said.

The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, filed a case two weeks ago at the prosecutor-general's office accusing the RCC director of slandering following a letter sent by Mr. Qattan in which he protested Parliament's charging of citizens from Taffeh for slandering. The citizens had earlier sent a letter addressed to the deputies protesting the indictment of former minister Mahmud Al-Hawandeh in a corruption case.

"Will any citizen be able to utter a word of criticism in the future against Parliament when 36 innocent citizens are being tried for the sole reason of questioning the Parliament's performance?" Mr. Qattan said.

Jordan will insist on multilateral-bilateral link

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the meeting on economic cooperation among the countries of the Middle East due in Paris Thursday will reiterate the Kingdom's demand for linking both bilateral and multilateral aspects of the Middle East peace process, according to delegation leader Fayez Tarawneh.

Dr. Tarawneh will stress that the multilateral phase of the peace negotiations should support and not substitute the bilateral negotiations.

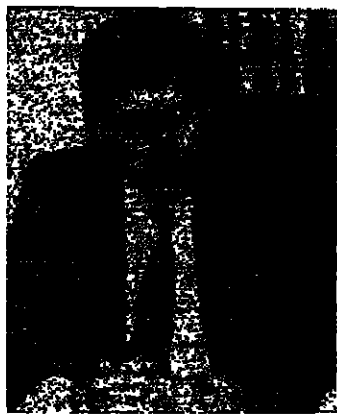
"Progress in the bilateral talks is a pre-requisite for any progress and success of the multilateral phase," he said. Jordan has been represented in all the five working groups of the multilateral talks of the Middle East peace process since the first in Moscow last January. These working groups, which meet in various parts of the world, address questions related to economy, refugees, the environment, disarmament and natural resources including water.

The coming meeting in Paris will assume great importance due to the representation of the Palestinian side, the attendance of the Israeli delegation and the participation of the United Nations for the first time, Dr. Tarawneh noted.

The Jordanian delegation, Dr. Tarawneh pointed out, will reiterate and stress the general ideas and principles presented at the previous group's meeting held in Brussels last May.

Dr. Tarawneh said that despite the lack of progress in the bilateral meetings, Jordan is keen on attending the multilateral phase of the peace process as it is deeply concerned in all matters under discussion and because it is interested in and supportive of regional cooperation.

According to Dr. Tarawneh, who is now in Washington attending the bilateral talks, a number of countries like Japan, France, the USA and members of the European Community might be submitting new proposals dealing with such issues like tourism and communications, which are of concern to the Kingdom.



Fayez Tarawneh

Cost of houses for the poor in Aqaba to be slashed by 40%

AMMAN (J.T.) — Low-income beneficiaries of government-sponsored housing projects in the city of Aqaba will have the cost of their homes slashed by about 40 per cent in accordance with a tentative decision taken in Amman Tuesday by the concerned ministers.

A statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra said that ministers of Labour, Abdul Karim Al-Kabari and Public Works and Housing, Saad Hayel Surour reached an agreement at a meeting with deputy premier and education minister Thaqan Al-Hindawi. They decided to submit recommendations to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker for approval.

The three ministers reviewed in

detail matters related to urban development projects carried out in the port city and progress on new schemes for housing limited-income groups, said Petra.

The discussions covered, among other things, revising the price of homes in districts undergoing development by the concerned government agencies.

The statement said that an agreement was reached that the cost of infrastructure for the housing projects like water, electricity and road networks, which had been added to the cost of homes, will now be shouldered by the concerned government ministries and housing agencies.

Once the decision has been approved by the prime minister, the statement added, no less than 40 per cent of the total cost of

each housing unit will be slashed from the beneficiaries' contributions. It went on to say that the concerned government departments, like the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Urban Development and Housing Department, will bear the cost of the infrastructure which will appear in their respective fiscal budgets allocated for public housing schemes.

The housing corporation had earlier built homes for limited income groups at Salabuddin and Shallaleh districts within the city of Aqaba benefiting 22,000 citizens. A local construction company was awarded the contract for the 274 housing units in Aqaba together with a shopping centre and other facilities.

Canadian peace medal awarded

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Canadian embassy announced Monday that a Canadian doctor who has been actively involved in efforts to provide humanitarian aid to Iraq has been awarded the Pearson Peace Medal for 1992. The medal was presented to Dr. Hoskins on Oct. 24, (U.N. day), in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dr. Hoskins, who spends a considerable part of his time in Amman, has spent much of the past two years finding ways to ensure the provision of humanitarian aid to post-war Iraq. For example, he arranged for the purchase and shipment of 400 tonnes of infant formula and 250,000 bottles of heart medication from Canada, paid for out of Iraqi assets in Canada (\$2 million), which were unfrozen for this purpose.

Dr. Hoskins (31) is the youngest recipient of the Pearson Peace Medal. The choice of Dr. Hoskins is a tribute to his remarkable involvement over the last five years in providing basic health care to children displaced by war in various countries, including Iraq and the Horn of Africa, using his medical training to help improve the welfare of some of the world's poorest citizens.

JPA thanks premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday received a cable from the Jordan Press Association (JPA) board, expressing appreciation for his "continued support for journalists."

The JPA said in the cable that the prime minister's support for journalists is an incentive for them to "continue to serve the causes of their nation and develop the profession."

Journalists express scepticism over JPA's capabilities

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Many doubtful questions were raised at a recent press conference about the capability of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) in meeting the needs of its members. Journalists are particularly concerned at having to join the JPA as stipulated in the draft press publication law that the Lower House of Parliament is expected to pass in December.

"At present, we are still trying to meet the basic needs of the association," said Suleiman Al-Qudab, JPA's president in reply to a participant in the conference held at the Islamic Research and Study Centre. The participant criticised the noticeable lack of training programmes and adequate financial help which he said should be provided by the JPA to its members.

"Among the many duties of the association is to help in the development of the press and help journalists to achieve the best product," said Sa'ed Al-Tal, a senator. "We are facing enormous challenges in the field of journalism, and if we are not able to meet the needs of our public then they will look for foreign media as a substitute," he added.

Dr. Al-Tal, a former minister, underlined the dire need to hold seminars as well as meetings that will tackle everyday issues and help resolve the serious problems facing journalists. "The association has to provide all the needed facilities for its members as well as providing for their full protection," he said.

The discussion touched on the problems that newly-graduated journalists encounter vis-a-vis employment, training and registration at the JPA. One of the many student participants said that many applications for training which have been submitted by the graduates to local newspapers and magazines have been turned down. He criticised the JPA's lack of consideration for gradu-

ate's problems. "There are many journalists who submitted applications for JPA's membership but have not received any answer," he said.

Mr. Qudab replied that "many of those who applied had not submitted all the required papers or simply didn't fulfil the JPA's standard regulations," he said.

"Many complications arose with the difficult circumstances that JPA's council was going through in the past," Mr. Qudab added. "The mechanism of acceptance by the new council is fairly fast; we have already accepted 25 applicants as reporters and 20 others as trainees."

However, some graduates, mainly from Yarmouk University, who constituted the largest group of attendees at the conference, pointed to the increasing number of student journalists who are unable to find a job and are not adopted by the association as a trainee due to the limited number of magazines and newspapers in Jordan.

The Editor-in-Chief of the Al-Jathour (Roots) newspaper, Fathi Sultan, questioned the right of the JPA to grant him a "trainee" membership even though he was an editor and had worked in journalism for over twenty years.

"We have heard so many accusations of which many are not true," Mr. Qudab said. "In all cases, we abide by the law when accepting or refusing applications."

Many questions were asked concerning the way the media covers news. The JPA responded that its duty is confined to its members and it is not entitled to interfere in the newspapers' strategy or line of thought.

Doubts over any change or improvement in the JPA's strategy, however, dominated the atmosphere. Whispers between two students at the end of the conference demonstrated the despair felt. "We should try and find other work," one of them said.

Foreign envoys visit University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of military and defence attaches and foreign liaison officers in Amman Tuesday visited the University of Jordan. The delegation was received by Director of the University's Strategic Studies Centre Mustafa Hamamneh who briefed its members on the centre's work and activities.

Whisper's RESTAURANT

New Service
Daily Business Lunch
(Set Menu)
For JD 5 p.p.
INCL. Tax & Service
Between 12:30 & 3:00 pm
Also A La Carte Order

NIGHTLY Live Music

Amman's Elite Restaurant
JABAL AMMAN - Between 5th & 6th Circle, Tel. 827850

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen Noor opens children's festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opened at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) the first Jordanian children's festival. Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al-Samra said in an address to the festival that the ministry's interest in children comes in implementation of directives by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. He said the ministry had worked on drawing up integrated policies for children's activities. The two-week festival, he said, was the outcome of strenuous efforts exerted by the festival's higher committee and sub-committees. The festival includes a competition between seven plays performed by children and actors. Around 100 children and four newly graduated actors will be competing for the first prize.

Ceremony to honour winners of creative writing competition

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, a ceremony will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre Nov. 3 to honour winners in the children's creative production competition, which was organised jointly by the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and the Noor Al-Husseini Foundation. A special committee had selected the winners out of 1,820 children who participated in the competition in the fields of writing stories and poetry, painting and other art works. Awards for this year's competition are presented by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Basirah prepares for winter

TAFILEH (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department in Basirah sub-district held a meeting Monday to discuss preparations for emergency conditions during the coming winter season. The meeting, which was chaired by sub-district Governor Abdullah Abu Homoud, stressed the need to supply emergency operation rooms with the needed equipment and machinery.

Seminar on refugees ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day seminar on refugees and displaced persons concluded its works at Yarmouk University Tuesday. The seminar, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was organised by the university's refugees studies programme in cooperation with the United Nations Higher Commission on Refugees.

Red Crescent to organise free medical day

ALT (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society's (JNRCS) branch in the Jordan Valley will organise on November 3 a free medical day in celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, which falls on Nov. 14. Director of the JNRCS branch Ahmad Al-Jarari said a large number of doctors from the private and public sectors will participate in the medical day.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and a daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)

Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khreis at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Photography exhibition of Petra at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Omar Hamdan Shahwan at Alla Art Gallery.

LECTURE

Lecture entitled "An Arab Physician in Germany" by Dr. Michael Fakhraoui at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

GAM wants to attract tourists to Shmeisani

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) hopes to attract serious offers from investors to set up unique, grand and tourist orientated businesses in its newly-built commercial centre in Shmeisani. GAM's Property Department Director Ra'd Al-Bakri told the Jordan Times Monday.

The Commercial centre, which stretches along the northern side of the Haya Centre, has been recently completed and was put on a public tender last week until the office closing hours of Monday, Nov. 2, 1992.

Mr. Bakri said that GAM has received over 400 applications over the past few months to buy certain stores in the centre but could not accept more because it had to follow the policy of a public tender first and, secondly, because GAM needed the widest possible range of choices on the type of businesses even at the expense of a lower financial bid.

"We received a JD 70,000 offer to sell a store but, despite the high amount which by far exceeds our announced minimum bid price, we were not willing to give away the store to be used as, for example, a blacksmith shop," Mr. Bakri pointed out.

He said that across the street from the centre was a "4-door" sports store, the owner of which was demanding a safe price of JD 80,000 for "one door" store. The public tender published in the Arabic newspapers allots the centre as follows:

Group	No. of Stores	Annual rent	Key money
A	1	JD 6,000	JD 55,000
B	1	JD 5,000	JD 45,000
C	6	JD 4,000	JD 40,000
D	1	JD 4,000	JD 40,000
E	2	JD 3,500	JD 27,000
F	13	JD 3,000	JD 17,000



The new commercial centre in Shmeisani.

Mr. Bakri noted that the above-shown key monies were 20 per cent below market levels because GAM was not interested in making profit but rather in promoting the Shmeisani Commercial area with new unique, clean and appealing quality businesses.

The Group A store has been designed to serve as a cafe or a restaurant (fast food). In addition, the large terrace that goes with the store makes that special spot a more prime location," he said.

The GAM official expected to receive bids from about 100 investors only as the JD 5,000 bank guarantee or cash deposit requirement would discourage many from participating in the tender, thereby leaving the opportunity wide open to those businessmen who really have something good in mind.

GAM's assistant mayor for planning, Anas Kattan, told the Jordan Times that the Shmeisani Commercial area is limited and, despite being crowded at present, there were no plans to enlarge the district beyond what it's current limits.

Mr. Kattan and Mr. Bakri said the GAM centre was a final opportunity to provide more space for investors who were seeking a foothold in Shmeisani.

Asked whether GAM would embark on building other commercial centres in, for example, Sweifiyah or Um Utheina, Mr. Bakri explained that there was ample supply in all other prime locations and that GAM was in the business of competing with private sector projects.

"Shmeisani was an exceptional case due to its limited commercial area and, we hope, that the new

commercial GAM centre would satisfy the needs upgrade the status of this important and prime section of the city" Mr. Bakri elaborated.

Faiz Abu Judom and Edie Banayan, owners of Piccadilly supermarket, across the street from the new centre, said the key money and the annual rent were unbelievably high.

"I don't know how anybody can afford to pay such an amount. Besides, the cost for internal decorations and various expenses will bring the total investment to JD 120,000 — JD 150,000 for each store" Mr. Abu Judom said.

"I don't think the GAM will have a problem finding (buyers)" Mr. Banayan said. "The problem is whether any investor can sustain paying such high rent for a long period." Mr. Abu Judom added.

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Division around corner

THE DEFEAT of constitutional amendments in Canada that aimed to reintegrate Quebec into the Canadian constitutional fold shows how fragile structures of nation states across the globe are becoming. The results of the referendum in Canada, made public in the late hours of Monday, have confirmed the worst fears among Canadians which are that their country is also being hit by the phenomenon of fragmentation that has been sweeping other regions of the world in recent times. Monday's referendum was not the first time that the various provincial governments in Canada have tried in vain to stitch together a united country. Three years ago an earlier attempt was also defeated, albeit by a low margin.

The outcome of the latest referendum manifests a growing trend in favour of division on ethnic and national basis, but not only in Canada. Look at Western Europe, where things do not appear to be much better. The Maastricht treaty aiming to create a united Europe on the basis of closer monetary and political terms is facing an uphill battle across the EC states with increasing signs that the peoples of Europe zealously guard their independence and therefore their differences. In both situations, whether in Canada or Europe, the affected peoples seem to reject what their respective governments have painstakingly negotiated and agreed upon. The same ethnic and national attitudes have been dramatically demonstrated in former Yugoslavia and this time with vengeance. The manner in which former Yugoslavs have been battling one another in support of their own micro national and ethnic identities has had catastrophic consequences for all of them. In other regions of the world, the tide of national division is also looming ominously on the horizon. Asia is projected to be the next major continent where breakup of countries on ethnic and religious grounds is likely to surface in the course of the coming years. The Indian subcontinent is the most obvious candidate for this fearsome kind of destruction. Of course what has been unfolding in the former Soviet Union is too painful to cite as another proof that federal or confederal forms of government are under increasing pressure from within due to the burgeoning centrifugal forces operating among the various ethnic and religious groups of peoples that once lived relatively peacefully side by side.

But the worst fears are probably related to the Middle East where a mosaic of religions and ethnic minorities coexist with the majority in a rather harmonious manner. There are now growing anxieties that coexistence, which the region has been taking for granted for centuries, may also collapse under the strain of the new tendency in the world to allow sizable minorities the right to self determination which often means the right to opt out of the central political order. If indeed this tendency is destined to gain momentum in the Middle East region as well, then the area is in for profound political earthquakes the likes of which the peoples of the region have been spared till now. Domsday may still be averted and prevented from occurring, but only through early and determined effort to root out extremism from our midst. The hope to save the countries and peoples of this region from the scourge of ethnic and religious warfare therefore calls for a degree of statesmanship and foresight unheard of in the past.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday attacked the United States and its allies for condoning Turkey's recurrent attacks on areas in northern Iraq to kill Kurdish rebels. While the Bush administration maintains an unjust embargo on Iraq to starve its population, it condones Turkey's measures against the Kurds demanding their rights in their land, said Al Ra'i daily. The Western countries, which continuously brag about their keenness to protect human rights, condone Turkey's punishment of Kurds speaking their own language or demanding their own rights as human beings, said the daily. The paper said that this immoral behaviour on the part of the Western nations in general and the United States in particular is disgusting and is despised by the various nations of the world. It is hoped, added the paper, that the Kurds who are forced to fight one another at present under pressure from Iran, Turkey and the Western countries would wake up to the reality and realise that these are only hostile forces determined to liquidate the Kurds and harbouring hostile designs against the Arab Nation. The Kurds in Iraq had enjoyed an autonomous rule envied by their kinsmen in Iran, Turkey and other regions of the world and should therefore try to end their differences with Baghdad and realise that their enemies are Turkey, Iran and the West but not the Arab Nation, the paper said. The paper said that not only are barbaric actions taken against Kurds in northern Iraq by the Turks and the Iranians, but those living in Iran and Turkey are subjected to repression of the worst kind. It said the time has come for the region's Kurds to realise their real enemies and join their efforts to confront them and the U.S. led alliance backing their inhuman actions.

AL DUSTOUR daily bitterly criticised France for its reaction in favour of Israel in the wake of the guerrilla attacks against Israeli troops occupying southern Lebanon. It is really dismaying to hear the official French spokesman in Paris criticising the acts of resistance against an occupying force when everyone supported the French people in their resistance against the Germans in World War II, said the daily. The French government, which criticised the resistance, realises that the Israeli soldiers were killed in occupied land and during their campaigns against the local Arab population, said the daily. It said that it is surprising to hear France taking the Israeli side in the conflict at a time when the French government realises that the Israelis continue to subject the Arabs to all forms of repression under occupation. One could have excused the French government's criticism of the Lebanese civilians, but the fact they were soldiers intent on killing the innocent Lebanese civilian population makes it astonishing to hear the French government condemning the Lebanese resistance action, continued the daily. It said that the French, who realise the ordeal of an occupied country more than others, should sympathise with the Lebanese people and express their solidarity with the freedom fighters.

Economic Forum

The argument for the dollar

THE last two months have been a period of violent turbulence in the world currency markets and high uncertainty for savers who chose to hold their savings in foreign currencies, not knowing exactly where to park their money. True, the monetary scene is now less misty and messy, but the degree of visibility is still dangerously poor.

To try to understand the present mood of the currency markets and thereafter chart a safe or less risky course, it is very helpful to recount one or two basic facts.

It is not familiar and probably not rational for the interest rates on the U.S. dollar to be as low as three per cent. However, if there were any good reasons for these rates to be that low, it would be irrational to keep them at their present level for a longer time.

The present rates have weakened the dollar. Such weakness is good for the American trade balance but a bigger dose or taking the present dose for a longer time will unleash inflationary pressures through high-price imports. Admittedly, American imports form a very modest fraction of the Gross National Product (GNP) — less than 10 per cent — and thereby a modest segment of aggregate demand, but the accumulated effects of the imported component of inflation may, at a certain time, reach a

point when they become decisive.

A weak dollar with low interest rates, that is low return, lures an exodus of funds out of the greenback into other high-rate and strong currencies. In technical and practical terms, this exodus involves a repayment of American external debt. The first category of debt to be retired here includes short term debt such as treasury bills and short term deposits. If the state of a weak low-interest dollar drags on, the repayment will cover longer term debt. Moreover, the weak dollar will preempt potential foreign capital flows into America. Foreign investors, especially the Japanese, will not be buying more of the American stock and public debt instruments.

Can the United States with its mammoth external debt afford now to start such process of debt retirement and the drying up of capital inflows? Most probably not; that will serve no national or economic cause. Accordingly, we strongly tend to dismiss the possibility of the continuation of low interest rates on the dollar. A year from now, the situation will have been reversed. This is one basic fact in the analysis of the present world monetary situation.

By the same token, it is neither customary nor rational for

interest on Deutsch marks in post-war Germany to be as high as nine per cent and to be higher than interest rates on all major currencies, with the exception of the French franc. Having nevertheless taken place, this irrationality should not continue. Now there has evolved a very strong domestic reason why it will not. Signs of deepening of the German recession are flashing; the bite of economic slowdown under the impact of overvalued high interest rates cannot be ignored by the German monetary authorities, not to mention the jittery politicians. This is the second fact in the analysis of the state of international currency markets. Add to that the very strong likelihood that any easing of the interest rates on the German mark will open the way for widespread cuts in interest on other European currencies.

It follows, from our point of view, that the present record interest differential between the dollar and the European currencies, particularly the D-mark, will start to narrow in the near future. This will improve the fortunes of the dollar because it has been the main factor which has been holding the D-mark on a very high plateau and suppressing the dollar. Our conclusion and firm contention is that the dollar will be ascending during the next 12 months.

U.S. voters likely to choose Clinton for recession answer

By Michael Miller
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Voters in key U.S. states, sharing the pain of the recession, are looking to Democratic challenger Bill Clinton for answers to the country's

economic problems.

With only nine days to go before election day, polls in California, Texas, Florida and the country's industrial belt suggest Americans will elect President George Bush and install Clinton in the White House.

Take California, for instance, which has one fifth of the 270 votes needed to decide the winner in the electoral college voting of the indirect U.S. election system.

Under the system, voters cast their ballots for elections in their

states and the winning electors meet to formally cast their ballots for president and vice president.

With a 7.5 per cent unemployment rate, two points higher than the national average, and the prospect of losing tens of thousands of defence industry

jobs, Californians do not see an early end to the recession — at least not under Mr. Bush.

A statewide survey by the Field poll earlier this month showed Mr. Clinton leading Mr. Bush 51 per cent to 30 per cent, a greater lead than in national opinion polls.

Independent Ross Perot, who in May was leading the California polls with 38 per cent, drew a scant 7 per cent in the October poll — although the survey was taken before his strong performance in the presidential debates.

Since 1880 no Republican has ever become president without winning California and 1992 looks as though it will be the same story.

Besides the economy, another factor cited by political scientists is the absence of a native son on the ticket.

There has been a Californian running for either president or vice president in seven of the last 10 elections. Richard Nixon was on the ticket five times, in 1952, 1956, 1960, 1968, and 1972, and Ronald Reagan was there in 1980 and 1984.

Whenever there has been a native son on the republican ticket, California has gone to the Republicans, and for this reason people tend to think California is a Republican state.

In Texas also, there is the same obsession with the economy.

The third most populous state — with 32 of the 270 electoral votes needed for victory — Texas is considered "must-win" for the Republican Bush.

Mr. Bush, who lists a Houston hotel room as his home, lags behind Mr. Clinton by eight points in the latest poll in Texas, which has been battered by the national recession just as it was struggling back from the oil price collapse of the mid-1980s.

The poll in the Houston Chronicle showed Mr. Clinton leading Mr. Bush by 39 to 31 per cent, with Mr. Perot at 15 per cent. Another 15 per cent were undecided in the poll.

University of Houston Political Scientist Richard Murray, who conducted the poll, gave Mr. Clinton the edge barring an unexpected development before the Nov. 3 election.

The decline of the U.S. oil industry, which has shed 400,000 jobs since 1981, has cooled oilmen's enthusiasm for their former colleague, George Bush.

Florida, too, once a Republican stronghold, is slipping away from Mr. Bush in large part because of the sluggish economy and shifting allegiances of Cuban-American voters.

At stake in Florida are 25 electoral votes, four more than in the last election thanks to the state's booming population of retirees and Hispanic immigrants.

Florida ranks fourth in importance after California, New York and Texas in the number of electoral votes.

Florida used to be bedrock for the Republicans. But a swing seems to be under way, although it is not yet clear how far it has gone.

In mid-September, the Mason-Dixon opinion research poll gave Mr. Bush a six-point edge over Mr. Clinton, but now says Mr. Clinton appears to have taken the lead. "We see Clinton having pulled out in front," Mason-Dixon pollster Robert Joffe said.

Other political experts say the Florida race is still too close to call.

In south Florida, where politics is dominated by the active and right-wing Cuban-American exile community, Mr. Clinton is picking up support.

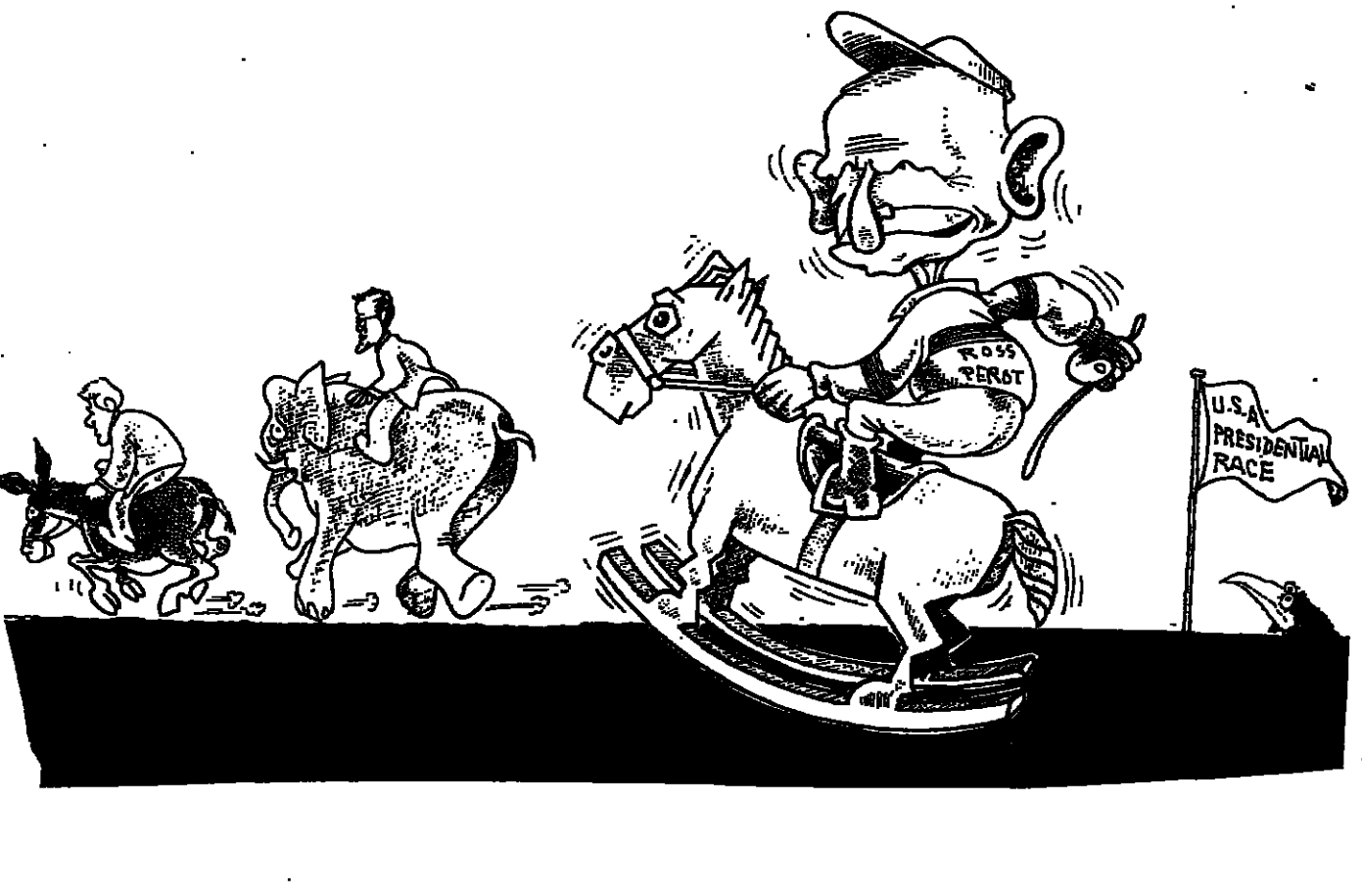
Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio, part of the country's ageing "rust belt" where industrial might and trade union clout waned in the 1980s, are all in the Clinton camp, according to polls.

Of the four, Ohio — which the Democrats have taken only three times in the 11 presidential elections since World War II — appears to be the most volatile. But even there Mr. Clinton has held a consistent 10-percentage-point lead for weeks.

Together the four states hold 84 of the 270 electoral votes needed for victory.

In all four rust belt states the story is the same — the lingering impact of a stubborn white-collar recession that stole jobs and made many Democrats who left the party to vote for Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush fearful of the future.

M. KAHIL



The Islamisation of Pakistan

By Molly Moore
and John Ward Anderson

LAHORE, Pakistan — When Nahmat Ahmad, a Christian school teacher, was called to the street outside his office in a village near here, he expected to meet a messenger. Instead, he was met by a knife-wielding man who angrily accused him of blaspheming the Prophet Mohammad and fatally stabbed him 17 times.

At the police station, some policemen rushed to kiss the attacker, Farooq Ahmad, 20, praising him for his "remarkable courage and commitment to Islam," according to a report on the incident by a human-rights group. Muslim clerics hailed him as a hero, villagers trekked to his cell with flowers and cookies, and the president of the local bar association volunteered free legal aid, the report said.

But no one — school children, fellow teachers, even the attacker — had ever heard Mr. Ahmad disparage the Prophet. Mr. Farooq said he learned of the allegation from anonymous handwritten posters on walls of the village, Faisalabad.

To many Pakistanis, Mr. Ahmad's slaying earlier this year and Faisalabad's reaction are symptomatic of the rising influence of zealous, sometimes fanatical, Islamic fundamentalism in the institutions of a nation whose governments, military and civilian, have been predominantly secular and long politically allied to the West.

In the last year, Pakistani courts and officials have imposed strict new Islamic laws on virtually every facet of society, from television soap operas to the nation's biggest banks. They have ordered television actresses to wear veils, mandated the death penalty for individuals found guilty of "defiling" Prophet Mohammad and are now debating whether banks should be allowed to charge interest in violation of religious doctrine.

"It's worse than what the Spa-

niards had at the time of the inquisition," said Dorab Patel, a former Supreme Court justice who is active in human-rights issues.

The surge in fundamentalism is adding to deep religious, social and economic tensions in Pakistan. The more educated and Westernised upper classes see the rise in orthodoxy as a giant step backward, saying it is fueling sexual discrimination, religious persecution and human-rights violations. Business leaders say it will discourage foreign trade and investment, stunting the country's growth and damaging its potential as a trade link between the West and Central Asia.

Pakistan's mainly secular political system, largely inherited from British colonial rule, has co-existed since the 1940s with one of the Muslim World's most conservative and influential fundamentalist movements. In a seeming contradiction wrought by cold war politics, this country was also long allied with the United States, a nation often viewed with antipathy by radical Muslims.

Now, with Pakistan possessing nuclear capabilities and the Islamic world in turmoil after the Gulf war and the reemergence of former Soviet Central Asia, the United States is particularly eager to see Pakistan remain under the control of what Washington considers more moderate religious forces.

Over 15 years, however, fundamentalist movements have been expanding their influence, primarily in rural areas where the Friday prayers at mosques give conservative religious leaders a stage for addressing largely illiterate villagers.

Such movements, notably the largest and oldest fundamentalist political party, Jamaat-e-Islami, have received large infusions of money from radical groups in such nations as Saudi Arabia and Iran. In recent years, according to numerous Pakistani press reports, money from Iran has

helped finance construction and operation of huge Islamic centers in major cities and hundreds of small facilities in villages.

Jamaat-e-Islami, in particular, also benefited from its cooperative relationship with General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, who ruled Pakistan for 11 years and began a fifth official campaign of Islamisation in 1981.

As elsewhere in the Islamic World, fundamentalism has been fuelled by the ballooning social and economic problems of the past decade: a burgeoning population, the long-term burden of millions of Afghan refugees, the loss of expatriate income from the once-booming economies of the Gulf and endemic corruption and infighting within the secular political system.

Ordinary Pakistanis, especially in the villages, remain deeply rooted in Islamic tradition. As in other such traditional societies, where secular political systems were imposed by European colonialism, it has been possible for fundamentalist campaigners to win converts to the idea that secular rule is a foreign idea that has failed a Muslim people.

In the last year, a weak national government, fearful of antagonising influential religious leaders, has begun openly catering to them with the imposition of strict new regulations based on Sharia, or Islamic law.

Sweeping new powers have been given to the federal Shariat Court, a religious court system with authority to try individuals for breaking religious laws.

One of the most disputed rulings the court imposed within the last year requires the death penalty for people found guilty of blasphemy against Islam. At least 30 have been charged since the stricter penalties were decreed, but none have yet been put to death.

"It is a terrifying law," said Asma Jahangir, a lawyer representing five men charged with blasphemy. "It's not just a matter of being put in prison — you can

exploit a lot of people in the name of religion. The law is basically being used to intimidate people."

Thus far, most of those accused under the law have been non-Muslims. One of the most recent cases involved one of Pakistan's best-known social workers, an 81-year-old man who was taken from his home at midnight and imprisoned for blasphemy because religious leaders said a children's story book that he wrote about a lion could be interpreted as a slight against Prophet Mohammad.

In another move that business leaders said would chill Pakistan's budding economic reforms, the religious court ruled last November that 22 regulations governing interest were "repugnant to the Koran." The government, worried that international businesses will shun Pakistan if interest payments are banned, is working to reach a settlement with the court on the issue.

"The world is free to come and invest, but they get no interest," said Ardasher Cowasjee, who formerly owned a shipping company and now writes newspaper columns on economic and other issues. "They can come and live with Islamic laws."

Another official said: "We are a nation of little sheep. It's a very poor country, and many people can't afford to take a stand" against the religious leaders.

This week, in a ruling that has alarmed many Pakistanis, the government has decided to list the religion of all citizens on their identification cards, an action that human-rights campaigners compared to apartheid.

"The one document that gave" non-Muslims "equality under the constitution has now been undermined," the Frontier Post newspaper wrote in an editorial. "Pakistan's religious cleansing" will be much worse than the Nazi cleansing because Pakistan is not as efficient a state as Hitler's Germany — Washington Post.

LETTERS

Negative equity but positive profits

To the Editor:

I refer to the article written by Mr. Samir Shafiq about the specialised study prepared by Mr. Mufleh Aqel "Banks in Jordan" shows where banks stand, (Jordan Times, Oct. 22-23, 1992).

In analysing the profitability of Banks in Jordan the article mentioned that "Amman Bank for Investments posted a negative 52.5 per cent return to equity ratio". This unfortunate mistake resulted from dividing the bank's net profits which amounted to JD16 million by the average equity of the bank which, then, happened to be in negative territory, therefore producing a negative result.

I seize this occasion to explain that since it is not usual for a bank with negative equity to generate profits, the bank's published profits were generated primarily by its hidden reserves, in the form of undervalued assets, which could not be used to produce the real positive equity of the bank until they are actually realised or sold.

Given this fact, the Amman Bank for Investment is supposed to be the most profitable among banks and deserves the first place in the banks' profitability league for its success in generating profits out of negative equity. However, I agree with Mr. Aqel that technically the return to equity should be left blank, as mentioned in his enclosed letter dated Oct. 22, 1992, correcting the above mentioned mistake.

Dr. Maher Shukri,
Managing Director,
Amman Bank for Investments.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jordan, Israel exchange agenda ideas

(Continued from page 1)

f trees, administrative detention and the sealing of roads and

Ones. The proposal was presented to Israeli delegates as Middle East peace talks resumed after a three-day recess. Israel's chief negotiator, Shlomo Rubenstein, promised to have the proposal carefully attended to.

The two sides also had informal discussions on a possible interim self-government arrangement for Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Syria's delegate to the peace talks accused Israel of being a peace negotiator in bad faith, but his Israeli counterpart said three hours of discussions produced progress toward a joint statement.

Syrian delegation spokesman Jawad Alal emerged from the discussion blaming Israeli occupation policies for the outbreak of violence in southern Lebanon.

"End the occupation and then you have no similar incidents," he said.

Mr. Alal also said there was no real attempt by the Israelis to ensure progress during Monday's talks.

He said Israel either does not want progress at this time or the Israeli delegation has been instructed not to move forward, not only was there no progress, there might be some regression," Mr. Alal said.

But Israeli delegate Itamar Rabinovich differed sharply in his account of the meeting, expressing surprise on learning of Mr. Alal's remarks.

"We agreed on some points, we kept reservations on others," Mr. Rabinovich said. "And certainly we didn't have a sense of regression, but a sense of working seriously towards a joint statement."

He sought to dismiss the differing interpretations of the meeting with a joke: "We were not in the same movie."

Israel and Lebanon also clashed angrily in their talks Monday over the escalating fighting in South Lebanon.

In a short, tense meeting, chief Israeli delegate Uri Lubrani said the guerrillas who ambushed and killed five Israeli soldiers were trying to wreck the peace process.

"What has happened in South Lebanon yesterday was the triggering of a new cycle of violence. It was triggered off by forces which are dedicated to upset the peace process," Mr. Lubrani said.

He said Israeli forces occupying a self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon "will not move and will not re-deploy as long as it is not assured that

there is security and tranquility in the area."

But Mr. Lubrani said Israel would stick with the talks which began a year ago at the Madrid peace conference.

Lebanon's chief negotiator, Souheil Chammas, said the attack and Israeli retaliatory strikes showed that the Israeli "security zone" brought the Jewish state no security and it ought to start talking seriously about withdrawal.

"The sad events that are taking place are bringing a heavy toll on Lebanese life too and in material damages," he said. "The best way out is for the Israelis to seriously address their withdrawal from Lebanon."

Mr. Alal went further and said that attacks against Israeli soldiers such as the weekend ambush were justified under international law.

"Resistance is justified," he said.

"National resistance to occupation is justified by the international law, by the United Nations Charter and by international legitimacy."

In Moscow, a top Israeli official said Tuesday Russia had agreed to use its close ties with the Arab World to try to end a boycott on regional talks by Syria and Lebanon.

"Russia will try to use its good offices to bring our neighbours to a more moderate attitude, not to use violence... to enter into practical negotiations," Josef Hadas, director general of Israel's foreign ministry, told reporters.

Speaking after talks with Russian officials, Hadas said the former Soviet Union's one-sided approach to the Middle East could now be turned to good effect.

"Russia has inherited the Soviet Union with all its relations with the Arab World," he said.

"The automatic and unquestioning support given by the Soviet Union in the past to any Arab attitudes anywhere was automatically anti-Israeli and didn't help. But today there is a balanced approach," he said.

Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the series of multilateral talks on future policy in the Middle East, saying they see no point to them until there is progress in the bilateral talks.

But Israel says the multilateral talks, which deal with arms, control, economic development, environment, water and refugees, are essential to build a framework for a future peace agreement.

"Russia has an important role to play... Russian diplomacy is still active," Mr. Hadas said.

Israelis keep up fierce bombardment

(Continued from page 1)

In east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Israeli air force staged two separate raids after midday (1000 GMT), apparently in response to a Katyusha rocket attack before dawn Tuesday that killed a 14-year-old boy and wounded five others in the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona.

Police said Israeli gunners intermittently pounded villages in South Lebanon and the western Bekaa Valley with howitzers, forcing hundreds of people to flee to safer areas.

Cars loaded with refugees and with beds and mattresses on top drove towards the port cities of Tyre and Sidon, which are equipped with proper air raid shelters.

Smoke billowed from the hills as the thunder of shell blasts echoed across the region overlooking the southern market town of Nabatiyeh, where people emerged to stockpile food and drinking water during a short lull.

"It looks like we're going to be holed up indoors for quite a long time. So it's prudent to have food stocks around," said housewife Mariam Sabbagh, 37, mother of two daughters.

In nearby Kfar Tibnit, Mohammad Yassin, 43, was lying on his rubble-strewn bed with shrapnel wounds from Monday's Israeli air attack.

"Thank God no one died. But the house is badly damaged and we don't have the means to repair

it," said Mr. Yassin, a baker. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah Monday called for a general mobilisation of his 3,500 hardcore fighters.

The organisation clamoured Tuesday for Lebanon to withdraw promptly from the peace talks, which Hezbollah and Iran have vowed to wreck.

The Beirut government ignored the demand but said it would lodge a complaint with the U.N. Security Council against the "ferocious Israeli aggressions."

The latest fighting in Lebanon, coupled with a wave of Palestinian attacks on Israeli settlers, is hampering Mr. Rabin's efforts to prepare his people to make the "concessions" required for peace.

Right-wing politicians who lost June elections portray Mr. Rabin as soft on the Arabs, and some of them are demanding he withdraw from the peace talks.

But Avigdor Ben-Gal, a retired Israeli general and former commander of the Lebanese-Syrian front, said Israel should act to quieten things down while pursuing the peace process.

"I'm going to say something very untoward and unpleasant, but I'll say it: Give them the honour of firing the last salvo and then silence the whole sector, because the sector won't be quiet as long as there is competition over who fired the final artillery round," Mr. Ben-Gal said on Israel Radio.

King Hassan on shuttle diplomacy

(Continued from page 1)

lead to a breakthrough in Jordan's ties with Riyadh.

Arab officials and diplomats said King Hassan's tour might bring about an Arab mini-summit to tackle problems such as territorial disputes involving Gulf states.

A Saudi-Qatar border dispute recently flared into violence and Iran and the United Arab Emirates are contesting ownership of three small but strategic Gulf islands.

The Arab League said it was not the right time to convene an Arab summit but the officials and diplomats said King Hassan would not have left Rabat if he

was not sure of some success.

The Emirates News Agency said King Hassan left the UAE on Tuesday afternoon.

It quoted Mr. Filali as saying the king was trying to heal regional rifts to help pave the way for an Arab summit and give more support to Arab teams negotiating with Israel.

"Morocco is trying for Arab reconciliation and to clear the air which might pave the way at the appropriate time to hold an Arab summit," Mr. Filali said.

"The Arab negotiators (at the Middle East peace talks) need Arab solidarity... so as to guarantee (Arab) rights," he said.

Sahnoun quits as Somalia envoy

(Continued from page 1)

However, U.N. Operation Somalia, in a statement, said Mr. Sahnoun offered his resignation because of the obstacles Somali warlords have placed in the way of international efforts to feed the country's hundreds of thousands of hungry people.

There was no confirmation whether Dr. Ghali accepted Mr. Sahnoun's resignation, made Monday from U.N. offices in neighbouring Kenya. Mr. Sahnoun was in Mogadishu Tues-

day, but not immediately available for comment.

The Algerian diplomat has overseen the world body's Somalia operations since April, including relief efforts and peace negotiations.

In the past, Mr. Sahnoun has been critical of what he said was the U.N. tardiness in responding to the Somali catastrophe.

He told the U.S.-based CBS broadcasting network last month that earlier U.N. intervention in Somalia would have saved lives.

Turkey sends armour into north Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

There are no reliable figures on PKK casualties.

Iraqi Kurds began their own campaign against the PKK on Oct. 4, when the separatists ignored an ultimatum from the Kurdish "parliament" to leave northern Iraq.

At least three Turkish soldiers have died and nine have been injured since planes and troops crossed the border on Oct. 16.

More than 5,100 people have

been killed since 1984 in the PKK's fight for a separate Kurdish state in southeast Turkey, largely waged from bases across the ill-defined border in northern Iraq.

The military source dismissed warnings by political commentators that harsh winter conditions could hamper the campaign.

"Winter is certainly an important factor but it is not the determining one. We are trained to fight in minus 40 degrees Celsius (-4 Fahrenheit) in eastern Turkey," he said.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has said the army operation will last until border security needs are met.

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Tourism needs better marketing, funds

(Continued from page 1)

Europe and the U.S.

But since the intifada broke out in 1987, marketing Amman as a gateway to the West Bank has been weakened. According to the report, the number of U.S. tourists to Jordan has dropped considerably since 1987.

International Traders General Manager Munir Nassar, however, disagrees. Jordan suffers from a war image.

"I think you will find that knowledge of Jordan has improved dramatically. In the aftermath of the Gulf war, the Western world came to realise that the stand that Jordan took was not necessarily anti-West, but rather a very balanced one that was calling for a peaceful solution to the problem," he said.

Mr. Nassar told the Jordan Times that diversification also helps reduce seasonal reliance on that "Jordan should concentrate its marketing efforts on tracing high-spending tourists without going head on into competition with other destinations at attract mass tourism."

Already Jordan is widening its market to include new countries. International Traders aims to attract 13,000 tourists to Jordan this year, mostly from Italy, the U.K., France and Japan.

Tour packages are now available "off-the-shelf" in Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Mexico, Argentina and Brazil; from 1988 arrivals from new markets increased by 16.2 per cent.

This trend continued during the first six months of 1990, but was temporarily stymied by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Mr. Nassar said.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, the 2.6 million visitors Jordan last year came from Iran, Berlin and as far away as London and Madrid. About 85 per cent were from Arab countries, 5.1 per cent from non-Arab Middle East nations and 5.6 per cent from European and American countries respectively.

Tourism accounts for 15 per cent of the Gross National Product.

Reasons for diversifying Jordan's tourism industry were cited on a survey of 60 highly educated, potential first-time visitors from the U.K.

Of the group, 87 per cent said they expected to find prehistoric ruins and 92 per cent to find desert in Jordan, suggesting that promotional material does not need to emphasise cultural and desert tourism.

However, only 43 per cent said they were aware of Jordan's Biblical history and 45 per cent expected to find sandy beaches.

According to Mr. Nassar, Jordan boasts 150 sites mentioned in holy writings such as Sodom and Gomorrah and Machabreus. They are a small fraction of the 3,500 recognised sites in the country, of which 250 have significant archaeological and historical value.

On geography, 55 per cent of respondents chose Israel as the neighbouring country, stressing the competitive nature of tourism.

Jordan's tourism plunged 85 per cent immediately following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"People in England or elsewhere don't know much about Jordan, including Aqaba. Israel has a huge budget for Elat. We need to spend more money on marketing and infrastructure, on the industry," said Petra Tours Deputy General-Manager Awni Kassar.

More cash may be on the way. According to Mr. Nassar, the government has promised to allocate the Jordan Tourism Board \$750,000 for tourism marketing and promotion during 1992. The marketing budget of the Ministry of Tourism was less than \$200,000 last year.

But even if marketing is boosted, Mr. Kassar and others argue infrastructure cannot keep up.

"If there are 20 groups in Jordan, the country is blocked. We cannot absorb much more than we have," Mr. Kassar said.

But with the hot springs in Ma'an still bubbling and the camels still treading silently across the dunes of Wadi Rum, there is room for growth, whether in more hotels or in more high-spending tourists.

As one European agent has said, Jordan is the world's "best kept secret." But not for long.

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Fischer overcomes Panic in impromptu chess match

BELGRADE (AP) — Bobby Fischer has added Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic to his list of vanquished chess opponents, a Belgrade newspaper reported.

The daily Vozroenje Novosti said the two battled it out when Panic showed up at Fischer's hotel room and proposed to "test his strength" against the former champion.

Fischer pulled out a pocket chessboard and won the first game.

But the newspaper said Panic battled him to a draw in the second, with some coaching from Yugoslav grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric. The report said Fischer also "ignored" some of the premier's mistakes.

Fischer was supposed to be playing old rival Boris Spassky in their \$5 million rematch, but the game was postponed after Spassky became bedridden with the flu.

Fischer leads 0-4 in the match, which goes to the first player to win 10 games.

Fischer won the world chess championship by defeating the Russian-born Spassky in 1972, but the International Chess Federation stripped him of the title in 1975 after he refused to defend it in a dispute over rule changes.

The 49-year-old American insists the rematch against Spassky, who has lived in virtual retirement in France, is again for the world title, although it is not sanctioned by the chess federation.

Fischer may stay in Yugoslavia

Meanwhile Fischer suggested he might stay on in Yugoslavia after his \$5 million rematch with Boris Spassky.

At what may be the last weekly news conference of the match, he was asked which country he intended to visit when he left Yugoslavia.

He laughingly replied: "Well, assuming I leave, eventually ... it must be Hungary, it's the only way out."

Final round of Jordan Tennis Championship begins

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The third and final round of the 1992 Jordan Tennis Championship begins Wednesday with 30 players competing in what promises to be an interesting and challenging round.

Top ranked Hani Al Ali, who won the first and second round earlier this year, is again the main contender as he aims to win the final round and retain his No. 1 ranking in the final year of rivalry with second ranked Imad Abu Hamda.

Ali recently announced that he might play for Jordan in the 1993 Davis Cup before retiring from competitive tennis after he dominated the tennis scene in Jordan for the past decade.

Abu Hamda however will be no easy opponent to overcome. He has steadily improved his game and gave Ali a hard time, especially in the second round final.

"Both players are very good, and I expect the final to be more competitive than before," National team coach Youssef Oreibi told the Jordan Times.

"Ali might have the winning edge because of his experience."

He pointed out that the Jordanian national team would be selected after the third round. The players will then prepare for the 1993 Davis Cup qualifiers in which Jordan plays Iran, and then faces the loser of the Kuwait-Thailand match.



Hani Al Ali
A supervisory and administrative committee for the Davis Cup has been set up. It is headed by Dr. Roshen Al Irani, and will oversee the preparation of the national team.

Olajuwon feud continues

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — The Houston Rockets opened preseason workouts this week amid the simmering feud between star center Alvin Olajuwon and owner Charlie Thomas, but players said the controversy was all on the outside.

"You play 82 games with 12 players and the coaches and you will have problems," guard Scott Brooks said. "Here there are problems too until you get on the court. Then there are no more problems."

Olajuwon, steaming over the Rockets' failure to trade him, called Thomas a coward and said he still expected an apology for an incident last March when he was suspended for refusing to suit up because of a hamstring injury.

Thomas said he'd done nothing that required an apology and suggested that Olajuwon fulfill his contract obligations.

But the feud was forgotten amid huffs and puffs of coach Rudy Tomjanovich's defensive drills at Galveston ball high school.

"He's in camp, he's working as hard as anyone, that's all you can ask," centre Tree Rollins said. "Spiritually, he's a very strong guy, I think that helps him. There are no problems with his work habits."

Olajuwon participated in the two-hour drill and then bolted for the door, declining further interviews.

But Tomjanovich, trying to conduct serious workouts amid the furor, said he has no complaints about his superstar.

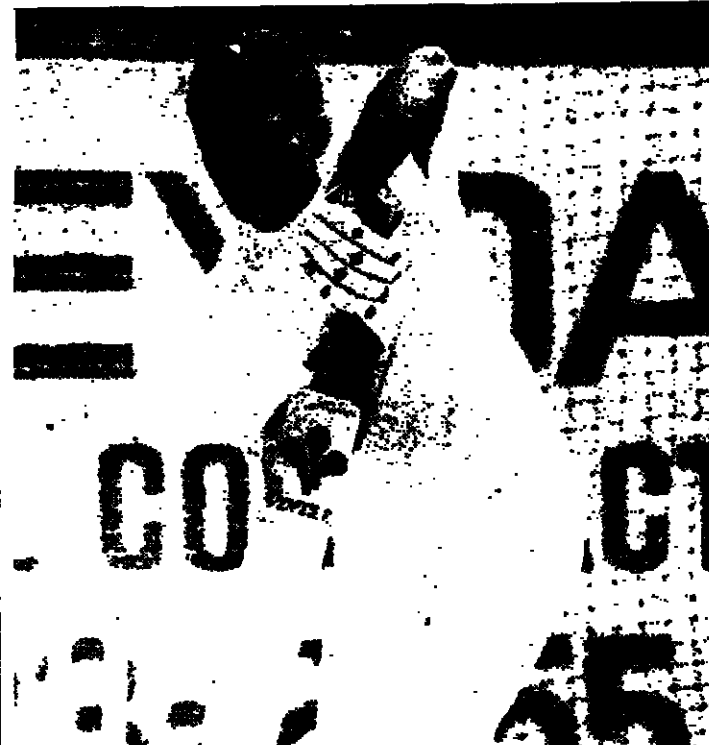
"To me, there is no Alkeem situation," Tomjanovich said. "To me, it's a media deal. He's very receptive to me last year, he was before camp started and he has been now. He comes to play."

Tomjanovich said he was not concentrating on Olajuwon's squabbles.

He preferred to emphasize Olajuwon being in camp and working hard.

"There are some who look at what he's said and call that negative," Tomjanovich said. "I'm thinking about the positive because I think he's done the right thing by coming in and getting to work."

Olajuwon, sat out five games last season with a hamstring injury. He refused to suit up for two games and was suspended for three more before he came back and said he would play the rest of the season but wanted a trade.



LANDMARK SWING: Mohammad Azharuddin, captain of the Indian cricket team, practices during the first training session in Johannesburg Tuesday. The Indian team is the first to tour South Africa since the country's readmission to the International Cricket Council (ICC). Indian and South African officials decided to try out the unprecedented posting of three umpires in warm-up matches before next month's historic test series (AFP photo)

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

JBF organises under-22 championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) has finally decided to organise the 1992 under-22 championship replacing the previous under-19 category according to international basketball federation recommendations. Eleven teams will compete in the championship and the schedule will soon be announced by the technical committee of the JBF.

UEFA bans Liverpool manager Souness

BERNE (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) has banned Liverpool manager Graeme Souness for five matches for insulting the referee in a European Cup Winners' Cup match in Moscow last Thursday. In a statement on Tuesday, UEFA said Souness had grossly insulted the referee in the second round, first leg tie against Moscow Spartak. Spartak won 4-2. A one-match ban was also imposed on Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar who was sent off in the match.

Five Norwegians fined after Samaranch protest

OSLO (R) — Five Norwegians have been fined for damaging cars taking International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch and other officials on a visit to sites of the 1994 Winter Olympics, police said Monday. About 20 people in Hamar, a town near Lillehammer which is to be the main host of the 1994 games, demonstrated against Samaranch for his role in the Government of former Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. Shouting slogans like "fascist go home" protesters broke a headlamp on one of the cars driving Samaranch and other Olympic officials as they drove away after inspecting a speed-skating hall. Another car was dented by kicks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 1992
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Contact friends and show that you want to cooperate in mutual projects so that better over all results are possible. Use a different psychology and come to a better understanding.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your judgement is certainly not good on how best to attend to a family matter today so postpone till a more propitious time but tonight is good for music hobby.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are all too apt to use the wrong phrasing or comment in a situation with a routine ally and have estrangement so guard your speech, writing carefully.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well any financial matter and then take under advisement so you can then proceed rather than make judgements at the moment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't get in the position where you have to take sides between a family member and an outsider but late tonight you see the situation clearly.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An attachment and one at a distance present different things for you to do but schedule your time so they both can be made to work in your behalf.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There is a conflict in interests today for you between promises of a practical nature and where your own personal wishes are brought into question.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your public success seems to depend upon a prominent person but actually that person at the moment is not the right one to present your best interests.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A newcomer has excellent suggestions for your advancement by they do not go along with the needs of your present activities so put on the back burner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure you get rid of those practical promises you have made before you go off to the recreations and pleasures of a new nature you anticipate.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new attitude and set of circumstances at home should await getting the various aspects of your usual labour operating in a satisfactory manner.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You would be sensible to have a more well rounded organized manner of handling your everyday concerns so focus upon that rather than dashing around.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't try some new approach at increasing your finances just yet or you lose out but put time and interest in arranging fun that lifts your burden.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

"I quit my diet. I can't be a perfect husband on an empty stomach!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Leo

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GURPE
VOABE
RUHLOY
HATTOR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O, O O O O!"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GAUZE FORCE DISCUS BONNET
Answer: What nostalgia is—NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

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Istanbul aims for Olympics on two continents

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul, bidding for the Olympics in the year 2000, aims to be the first city to stage the games on two continents.

Divided by the Bosphorus, it straddles Europe and Asia. Turkish National Olympic Committee president Sinan Erdem said some events would be held on the European side and others on the Asian.

"If Istanbul is selected the games will be held for the first time on two continents," Erdem said. All events will be held within a 40-kilometre radius.

Erdem said the Turkish government had set aside a budget of \$12 million for promotion. The U.S. advertising company Young and Rubicam has been hired as communications consultants to promote the bid.

Seven other cities are bidding for the 2000 Summer Olympics: Beijing, Berlin, Brasilia, Manchester, Milan, Sydney and Tashkent. A decision on the host city will be made at an IOC session in Monaco next September.

Founded in the seventh century BC, Istanbul has served as capital of three world empires: The Roman, the Byzantine and the Ottoman. With a population of over eight million, it is modern Turkey's largest city and a regional hub for trade, industry and culture.

"If the promotion of Istanbul and Turkey is done effectively Istanbul will be selected as the venue for the games," Erdem said.

The Olympic village, housing more than 15,000 athletes, would be situated in Halkali, on the European side of the city near the sea of Marmara. Tefik Bilgin, coordination and planning manager of Young and Rubicam's Istanbul office, said.

The village would be 12 kms from Istanbul Ataturk International Airport and from the Olympic stadium and associated sports complexes.

It would be easily reachable from the city centre by car, bus and a light rapid metro system expected to be completed this decade.

Several new five-star hotels have been completed and others are planned, Bilgin said. The city would easily meet Olympic accommodation and telecommunication requirements, he added.

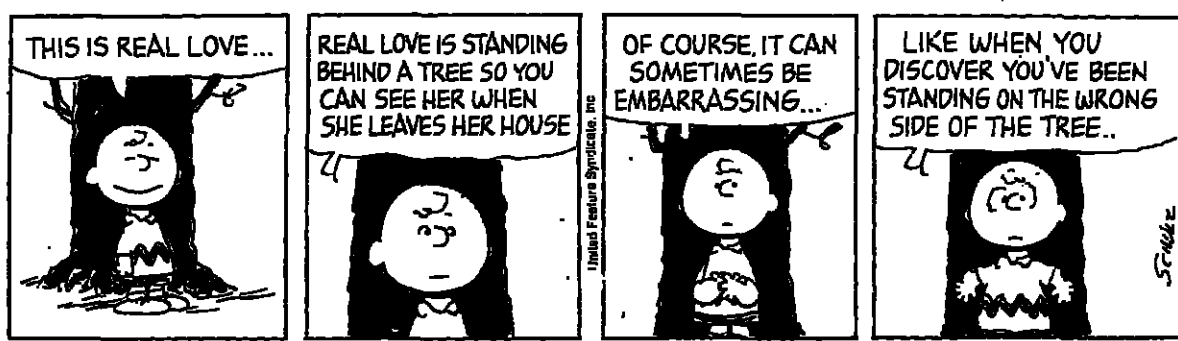
Bilgin said the Olympics would help Istanbul's urban renewal and improve the city's environment. "We want to hold green Olympic games," he said.

A massive new sewerage system with 14 biological water treatment plants is under construction in Istanbul to purify coastal waters.

Construction work is in progress on a pipeline system which will supply Siberian natural gas and reduce the city's air pollution.

Bilgin said the drawback in Istanbul's bid might be Turkey's limited experience of competition in Olympic events.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

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1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

NO WAY TO GET OUT

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 6 3
♥ J 7
♦ Q J
♣ A K 5 3

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ A 9
♦ K 10 7 5 3 6 2
♣ J 9 4

EAST
♠ A 4
♥ K 8 6 4 3
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ Q 10 7 6

SOUTH
♠ Q J 9 8 5
♥ Q 5 2
♦ A 9 4
♣ 8 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 ♦ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Take our word for it—those pleasant-looking people to your right and left at the bridge table are trying to do you in. That doesn't mean you have to consent meekly to being led to the slaughter.

North's four clubs was a cue-bid showing a maximum no trump and a strong side suit. However, the declarer's hand was beyond

have jumped to three spades to show a maximum with good spades, and South's four spades would have ended the auction, the only difference being that North would then have been the declarer.

West attacked with ace and another heart. Since it was obvious North wanted to ruff a heart, declarer immediately led a trump. East won and gave West a heart ruff. The club return was taken in dummy, and declarer eventually had to rely on the diamond finesse for the contract—down one.

While it was unlikely that declarer could prevent a heart ruff, South could have taken some preventive medicine. Before tackling trumps, it would have cost declarer nothing to first cash the ace and king of clubs just then ruff a club with the right of trumps. With that seemingly unimportant business out of the way, declarer could revert to trumps.

East would still have been able to give West a heart ruff, but as the cards lie, declarer's precautionary move would have paid huge dividends. Down to nothing but diamonds. West would have been forced to lead away from the king of diamonds, and the combined trumps

THE Daily Crossword

by Tom Guarro

ACROSS

1 Shoot
5 Chums
9 Concoct
14 Amilo, a.d.
15 Error
16 Isolated
17 Particulate matter
20 Spokes
21 Dwell
22 Part of DEA
24 Dign
25 Nocturnal bird
28 Buxby
29 Inchon native
32 17
33 Boston airport
34 Musburger
35 Just
38 Confession
40 Loosening
41 Use a slave
42 Look what the wind
44 — Na Na
47 Yale
48 Tavern order
49 Slide fastener
51 Puts in more bullets

DOWN

1 Fawcett
2 Glacial period
3 Dominated
4 — (Buzz) Alvin
5 Gr. letter
6 Seg. neighbor
7 In — of
8 Old enemy of
9 Sierra —
10 Island of exile
11 Certain auto mishap
12 On-the-ground
13 Shee with
18 Tree
19 Midway

23 System of exercises
26 Oenophile's delight
27 Illuminated
30 Campaigned
31 Invest
32 Certain picture
33 Pick up
34 Bull
35 Full short
36 Triple Crown winner
37 Comp. pt.
38 Teal
39 Poet's monogram
42 Political coalition
43 Skipped through
44 Halo
45 Mettise and Rousseau
46 Certain knitting pattern
48 Immigrant
50 Carpenter's tool

52 Best or Farber
53 Part of a petaloid
57 Raw metal
58 Four grade

56 — the season...
57 Raw metal
58 Four grade

Jeff in bits

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.5840	1.5795
Deutsche Mark	1.5315	1.5375
Swiss Franc	1.5645	1.5695
French Franc	5.1900	5.2115**
Japanese Yen	122.00	122.26
European Currency Unit	1.2790	1.2755**

Forex Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.56	3.65	3.93
Sterling Pound	9.00	7.81	7.06	6.62
Deutsche Mark	8.93	8.68	8.25	7.56
Swiss Franc	5.88	6.00	5.87	5.75
French Franc	9.62	9.50	9.12	8.75
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.67	3.65	3.56
European Currency Unit	10.06	9.57	9.51	8.87

Forward Rates

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	338.70	6.60	Silver	3.75	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Rate
U.S. Dollar	0.684
Sterling Pound	1.0766
Deutsche Mark	0.4466
Swiss Franc	0.4969
French Franc	0.1311
Japanese Yen	0.5567
Dutch Guilder	0.3956
Swedish Krona	0.1180
Italian Lira	0.0515
Belgian Franc	0.02161

Other Currencies

Currency	Rate
Bahraini Dinar	1.7920
Lebanese Lira	0.03225
Saudi Riyal	0.1821
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1852
Egyptian Pound	0.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7540
UAE Dirham	0.1852
Greek Drachma	0.3472
Cypriot Pound	1.4877

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	25/10/92	26/10/92
All-Share	154.23	155.06
Banking Sector	116.92	116.71
Insurance Sector	168.32	169.36
Industry Sector	207.69	208.25
Services Sector	222.00	222.07

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One sterling	U.S. dollars
1.5685/95	1.2483/88
1.5320/30	1.7200/15
1.3655/65	31.4852
5.1880/930	122.35/45
122.35/45	5.7750/650
6.2500/600	5.8950/900
One ounce of gold	\$338.90/339.30

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

Turkey plans to liberalise gold trading

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey plans to set up a gold exchange in Istanbul and liberalise gold trading by the end of the year, a government minister said Monday.

"We want to establish a gold exchange in Istanbul and liberalise the importing and exporting of gold," Tuncer Ciller, state minister responsible for the economy, told a meeting of the Foreign Investment Association of Turkey.

She said private and state commercial banks would be allowed to import and export gold, currently a monopoly of the central bank. She said a gold refinery would also be established.

Industry sources said the exchange would be set up in Istanbul's covered bazaar, where thousands of merchants and craftsmen deal in gold jewellery.

Mr. Ciller said the measures formed part of a government plan to transform Istanbul into a major regional banking and finance centre.

Turkey is one of the world's biggest importers of gold for jewellery. Central bank figures show it sold 113 tonnes of gold in 1991.

Smuggling also rises

Indian gold imports surge

BOMBAY (R) — India's legal gold imports have surged to 58.5 tonnes over the past seven months, but rampant smuggling is also rising following the easing of controls on holding the precious metal, traders said Monday.

The finance ministry said more than six tonnes of gold had been imported in the first half of October ahead of last weekend's celebrations of Diwali, or the festival of lights marking the Hindu new year.

It took total imports to 58.5 tonnes since the beginning of March when Indian expatriates and nationals staying abroad for at least six months were allowed to bring in up to five kilograms (160 troy ounces) of gold as part of their personal baggage, subject to a tax of 220 rupees (\$8.51) per 10 grammes (almost one-third of a troy ounce).

But legal imports are dwarfed by the amount smuggled in from the Middle East, and across the Nepal and Pakistan borders.

Shantilal Sonawala, director and past president of the Bombay Bullion Association, said smuggled gold now totalled an estimated 220 tonnes a year, up 50 tonnes from the level 10 years ago. It had a retail value in India of 80 billion rupees (\$3.0 billion).

"Most of the gold follows a route through Dubai from major markets in the West," Mr. Sonawala said in an interview. "With

world gold prices flat, India remains the most attractive market, even with the risks of contraband smuggling."

Until the relaxation of rules, the government had imposed tough restrictions on the import of gold that kept India's gold price between 20 and 50 per cent higher than the world price.

But the new rules, announced as part of India's economic reforms introduced in the national budget last February, have sent gold prices tumbling from a pre-budget peak of 5,000 rupees (\$193.57) per 10 grammes of standard mint gold to 4,060 rupees (\$157.18) quoted on Sunday, Bombay Bullion Association President, Makhkhanlal Damani said.

Dealers said this still gives a mark-up on world prices of at least 660 rupees (\$25.55) per 10 grammes.

In the latest easing of restrictions, the government announced just ahead of Diwali last Wednesday that Indian exporters could import 18 previously restricted items, including gold, worth up to 20 per cent of their export earnings.

Other protected items that may now be imported by trading companies include video cameras and tapes, portable electric generators, dry battery cells and compact disc players.

India has one of the world's largest gold hoards, estimated at around 7,000 tonnes, built up over the centuries and spread through its population of 850 million people.

Gold is preferred by Indians as a hedge against inflation. All women from the richest to the most lowly wear gold or silver ornaments and bracelets, while the exchange of gold jewellery is an essential part of any marriage dowry.

"Marriage demand is constant at around 100 tonnes of gold a year," Mr. Sonawala said. But India has only three mines producing two to three tonnes of gold a year, while Mr. Sonawala placed demand for fabrication of jewellery and ornaments at around 400 tonnes a year.

Until the new import policy for trading houses and private citizens, India's legal imports through state banks totalled 6-10

tonnes a year. Demand was met from recycled gold and smuggling, Mr. Sonawala said.

The government's objective is to gradually bring India in line with world prices.

But while Mr. Sonawala said prices could ease, he added it was unlikely that Indian prices would fall to international levels for some time.

"We will only meet the international prices if our demand is less than supply, which is hardly possible. So we will continue to have some edge over international prices," he said.

The government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country's central bank, are considering a plan to tap India's huge privately-held reserves through the creation of a gold management corporation, but details are still being worked out.

Under the plan, Indians would deposit gold with the corporation, that would be managed by the RBI. They would receive interest on the gold, which would then be used to boost the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Gold trade booming in Dubai

DUBAI (R) — The thriving gold trade in Dubai is expected to rise to new heights this year with a 60 per cent increase in imports and exports, a senior official of the World Gold Council said Tuesday.

"I forecast an increase of over 60 per cent for the year 1992... it is definitely a record," Andre Bisang, Middle East director of the Geneva-based organisation, told Reuters in an interview.

He said Dubai ranks as the fifth most important centre for gold trade in the world.

"The reason trade in Dubai is increasing in volume is that when somebody needs gold it is easier to come here than go to London. Legislation here is very good, cost of labour is very low, insurance cost is minimal and income tax is a joke compared to Europe," he said.

"People can buy the same piece of Italian gold jewellery at half the price they would buy it in Italy," he added.

Mr. Bisang would not provide figures on the volume of trade. But traders said 210 tonnes of gold bullion were shipped to Dubai between January and September, more than double the amount in the same period last year.

They said bullion imports were expected to hit a record 260 tonnes this year and that a large amount of gold jewellery was also reaching Dubai, where the government does not impose any restrictions or tariffs on the import and export of gold.

According to official figures one gramme of gold sells for around 42 dirhams (\$11).

Mr. Bisang said a current dip in world gold prices and the easing of controls on gold imports in some countries like India and Pakistan led to a boom in Dubai's gold trade.

He said Indian expatriates were still exporting gold from Dubai and other countries through unofficial channels although the government in March allowed them to bring in gold.

"The official import in India is going on top of what was normally going through unofficial ways to India... whatever goes to India officially is a surplus. The smuggling goes on. I don't call it smuggling I call it reexport through parallel channels," Mr. Bisang added.

"One has to remember that not only India has liberalised but also its big neighbour Pakistan and that we will probably see an increase of reexport from Dubai to Pakistan and I am not talking of official or unofficial, I am just talking of reexport," he said.

"There is an important demand I believe also in Iran," Mr. Bisang said. He said traders in Dubai kept huge stocks of gold bullion. "There is an important stock of gold... if one bank needs one and a half tonnes of gold by tomorrow morning it will get it tomorrow morning."

"Dubai is very liberal. There is no tax on gold bullion and also the Swiss and British bullion dealers have extremely strong relations with this country," he said. Some 80 per cent of the gold bullion is exported to Dubai from Switzerland and the rest from England, Mr. Bisang said.

Mr. Bisang expected the gold trade to boom even more in Dubai with more countries easing off restrictions on gold imports. "I think we will go into a time when more countries will open the door because they will realise that closing the door to gold is impossible. India has been closing its door to gold, but gold continued to go in," he said.

Bangladesh to spice up stock market with incentives

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh plans to revamp its newly revived stock market by providing wide-ranging incentives to foreign and local investors, officials and analysts said.

They said the Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd. (DSE) would soon tighten its poorly-regulated brokerage system by creating more corporate members, setting up a security exchange authority to oversee the stock market and ensuring a smoother flow of stocks.

"Lack of transparency and proper corporate management due to the absence of an effective authority are discouraging both local and foreign investors," said Aminul Islam Khan, DSE chairman.

"We are already planning to turn individual members (of DSE) into corporate ones to improve liquidity, credibility and efficiency of broking firms," he said in an interview.

DSE officials say foreign investors

prefer to deal with corporate members as they can be more reliable than individual members.

DSE officials said they expect the number of corporate members will be increased "in the near future" from the present three out of a total of 195 listed brokers.

Mr. Khan said foreign firms were keen on bulk purchases but whether or not they would be able to make them would depend on deepening the market and easing share flows.

The total market capitalisation of the DSE, which lists 138 companies, stood at 10.39 billion taka (\$266 million) in 1991 against 11.48 billion (\$294 million) the previous year.

The average DSE all share price index had dropped to 296.25 points in 1991 from 350.76 in 1990. By July this year the index had climbed back to 386.98 but fell back and recently hovered around 357 points.

The DSE officials said the DSE

would also be tackling problems arising from the taka's recent depreciation.

"This market is particularly lucrative for foreigners because the average P.E. (price/earnings ratio) is below 10 times," said former DSE chairman Hemayetuddin Ahmad in an interview.

"But the currency depreciation and a single digit inflation rate in recent years diminish to some extent the appeal of the market to the foreign investors," Mr. Ahmad said.

The taka depreciated by about 15 per cent in fiscal 1991/92. Stock officials say this has discouraged foreign investment because foreigners investing in dollars are likely to lose on the exchange rate when they repatriate funds, having to buy back the dollar at a higher rate.

From July 1, foreigners have been able to buy shares through the DSE and repatriate 100 per cent of their profits.

U.S. survey says corporate cutbacks likely to rise in 1993

NEW YORK (AP) — Layoffs and job eliminations in American corporations could reach record numbers in 1993, said a survey released by the American Management Association.

It said one out of every four of the companies surveyed is planning workforce reductions by June 1993. That's the highest level since the association began the survey six years ago.

"Companies will continue to downsize frequently and deeply as they seek an irreducible core of permanent employees," said Eric Greenberg, the association's survey director.

Corporate layoffs and cutbacks have been a major contributor to the nation's sense of economic malaise, one of the most important issues in the presidential campaign. But the study suggested that the general trend of workforce reductions will persist regardless of who wins the election.

Just in the last two weeks, General Dynamics Corp.'s Convair division, Westinghouse Electric Corp., American Airlines, and United Technologies Corp.'s Pratt and Whitney jet engine unit announced substantial staff cuts.

"Downsizing started out as a competitive measure, became a trend and now seems to be addition," Mr. Greenberg said. Until three years ago, most

companies blamed the job cuts on non-economic reasons, such as improved staff utilization, increased automation and technology, and transfer of production or work.

Beginning in 1990, the majority of companies said the recession was the main reason for the layoffs. But that trend appears to be shifting again.

While the weak economy is still responsible for the majority of cutbacks, 63 per cent of the companies cited it as the primary reason this year, down from 73 per cent last year.

This is important because cutbacks done for non-economic reasons are usually permanent and more severe, while companies often replace workers laid off for recessionary reasons, Mr. Greenberg said.

Still, many companies that shrink don't need to, Mr. Greenberg added, saying that three-quarters of the businesses that downsize are profitable before they distribute the pink slips.

The survey also showed that downsizing doesn't always increase profitability. It found that fewer than half of all companies that downsize increase their profits in the following year.

Worker productivity is just as likely to decline as to increase, the survey also found. "Downsizing is certainly no ticket to improved performance," Mr.

Greenberg said.

While the number of downsizing continues to grow, companies are making slightly smaller cuts, the survey showed. Between July 1991 and June 1992, 46 per cent of the 836 companies surveyed cut staff by an average of 9.3 per cent. In the previous year, cuts averaged 9.6 per cent.

Middle managers are most likely to get laid off. While they make up eight per cent or less of the workforce, they accounted for an average of 22 per cent of the jobs lost, the survey found.

Manufacturing enterprises are more likely than service companies to cut jobs, and larger companies more likely than smaller ones, the survey found.

Mr. Greenberg called the results "alarming," adding that the actual number of companies that downsize is typically "two to three times higher" than the number that plan to do so at the beginning of each survey period.

The association said the survey had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Based in New York, the association is a not-for-profit management support organisation.

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Lebanon pound gains as cabinet talks end

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound rose further against the dollar Tuesday as the country's new prime minister ended talks on forming a government to save the economy. The central bank said the pound closed at 1,985 to the dollar compared with Monday's rate of 2,020, bringing its total gain in international value to 15 per cent in the past week. Lebanese, banking on billionaire Rafik Al Hariri creating a cabinet to stop the economic and social rot of 15 years of civil war, have rushed to unload dollars for pounds. Official sources said Mr. Hariri was expected to name a 30-member cabinet later this week. The pound's rise drove down prices, including the cost of petrol which dropped by 13.5 per cent. The sources said the central bank bought some \$25 million in U.S. currency on Tuesday compared to Monday's \$150 million which took Lebanon's foreign reserves to more than \$1.3 billion. Mr. Hariri, a tycoon with Saudi royal links who made his fortune in construction and banking, wrapped up talks with members of the new 128-seat parliament on the shape of his government. "I hope to succeed in forming a government that boosts the citizens' confidence in their state," he told reporters after the meetings. Mr. Hariri wants his team to have special powers to rebuild the country and stamp out corruption. The cabinet is likely to include former warlords but with technocrats in charge of the economic and public services portfolios vital to recovery.

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Pakistan frees marchers, expels 5

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan released more than 100 Kashmiri activists arrested while staging a banned march but expelled five leaders of the protest from the part of Kashmir which it rules, opposition sources said.

Kashmiri political groups in Pakistan meanwhile held protests to mark the 45th anniversary of the entry of the Indian army into Kashmir at the start of the first India-Pakistan war over the disputed Himalayan region.

More than 2,000 members of the rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami party held a protest march in Islamabad and burned an effigy of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Pakistan police Sunday and Monday arrested about 140 protesters trying to cross from Pakistan-ruled Azad Kashmir into the Indian-administered sector.

The marchers sought to show support for a Muslim uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

More than 30 people were released Monday and the rest on Tuesday, said a spokesman for the opposition Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Alliance (JKDA), which organised the protest.

The five men, including Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Amanullah Khan, and Jammu and Kashmir Libera-

tion League (JKLL) chief Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, were expelled from the Azad Kashmir district of Muzaffarabad for one month, JKLL Secretary-General Khwaja Farooq Ahmad said.

He said the police escorted the five to Rawalpindi near Islamabad early Tuesday from a police lockup at Chinari, near the U.N.-monitored ceasefire line between the two sectors.

No government comment was immediately available.

Mr. Chaudhry said in a statement later that Azad Kashmir was under "unfettered martial law" and demanded the immediate withdrawal of thousands of Pakistani paramilitary troops there.

The five expelled, including JKLF senior "vice-Chairman" Raja Muzaffar, were among 41 people arrested Sunday after a student activist was killed and 25 people were injured in a clash between the protesters and Pakistani paramilitary troops.

About 100 activists were arrested Monday after the police fired tear gas to break up a sit-in by marchers who wanted to storm the heavily-defended ceasefire line at another point.

JKDA leader and former Azad Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim, arrested before the start of the march on Saturday, was released Monday.



Supporters of Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami fundamentalist party burn an effigy of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in Islamabad Tuesday (AFP photo)

The JKDA, says it has suspended the march and will decide its future course later. It has called for protests Wednesday against alleged police brutality. Pakistan and Azad Kashmir authorities used force twice early

this year to block attempts by the pro-independence JKLF to cross the line, and 10 people were killed in February. Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Bosnian Serbs advance on Jajce as Muslim-Croat alliance breaks up

SARAJEVO (R) — Scores of people were killed and more than 100 wounded in a battle for the besieged Bosnian town of Jajce in what government-controlled radio described Tuesday as the town's worst day since the war began.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, there were signs that the alliance between Croats and Muslims against the Serbs was in deep trouble.

The radio said the mainly Muslim Bosnian army and Croat units held their positions against determined Serb assaults on Jajce, a central Bosnian town with a chiefly Muslim population of around 40,000, 160 kilometres north of Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serb army previously said it was a matter of hours before Jajce fell and Tanjug News Agency said street fighting between Serbs and combined Muslim and Croat forces was going on at the approaches to the town.

It said the Muslims and Croats, still evidently allied there, were retreating east towards the town of Travnik.

But the Muslims could be falling into a trap since the Croats turned against them in Travnik over the weekend, inflicting hun-

dreds of casualties on their former allies.

The loss of Jajce would be a heavy blow for the Muslims, and that of Travnik, if it followed, a disaster.

It would mean squeezing the mainly-Muslim forces loyal to the Bosnian presidency out of a large chunk of territory in the centre of their newly-independent country.

The events in central Bosnia in the past few days showed the alliance between Muslims and Croats against the rebel Serbs was visibly collapsing.

Sarajevo Radio said 3,000 Muslims had been expelled by Croat troops from the small town of Prozor, west of the capital. The Bosnian army command said Croat shelling had reduced Prozor, whose peacetime population is about 20,000, to rubble.

Croatian radio, denying the report, later said the Bosnian media had been taken in by the Serb Intelligence Service.

But authoritative Bosnian government sources, speaking on conditions of anonymity, told Reuters Tuesday that Bosnian Muslim leadership Sunday discussed Prozor and what they said was "the Croat problem."

The sources said Bosnian Presi-

dent Alija Izetbegovic, presidency member Ejup Ganic and Sefer Halilovic, the chief of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army, attended the meeting.

They said Mr. Halilovic pressed for strong military response to Croat action in Prozor but was "narrowly outvoted". No further details were given.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported that Croat villagers around the town of Doboj had appealed to its Serb army commanders "to protect them from Muslim atrocities."

It claimed "atrocities and intolerance have intensified since numerous Arab Mujahideens arrived in these areas."

Volunteers from several Islamic countries are known to be fighting on behalf of the Muslims — Bosnia's largest but militarily weakest ethnic group.

Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban said in an interview he had asked Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to prevent these fighters from passing through his territory.

Mr. Boban, corroborating reports that the Croat-Muslim alliance was virtually dead, said the fighters and their weapons could be turned against the Croatian people.

Yeltsin cracks down on Salvation Front

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, battling to save his reform policies, Tuesday ordered a ban on a "National Salvation Front" formed with the avowed object of removing him from power.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying the front, combining militant nationalists, splinter groups of the banned Communist Party and military officers, posed a "terrible danger" to Russia.

The front was founded Saturday at a congress guarded by paramilitary guards in black uniforms, berets and jackboots. Liberal opponents accused it of preparing a "creeping coup."

Mr. Yeltsin, shown on television, told State Secretary Genady Burbulis to prepare for his signature a "decree with immediate effect" outlawing the front.

It would be the first ban on a Russian political group since the Communist Party outlawed after a failed 1991 coup. The front's leaders include a general sacked from his command after the abortive coup.

Mr. Yeltsin's decision highlighted a growing crisis in the Kremlin as conservatives rally to challenge reforms. Opponents in parliament want to limit his powers to choose a government.

"(The front) calls for the overthrow of legally constituted authorities," Mr. Yeltsin said. "It is destabilising society, turns people against each other."

Anticipating Western fears of a general clampdown in Russia, he told senior diplomats to explain his position to foreign governments. "There is a terrible danger. But in the West they don't yet understand this," he said.

Most Western diplomats believe that the National Salvation Front, combining groups apparently consigned to the

fringe of Russian life, does not pose a threat to Mr. Yeltsin. But the president clearly viewed its possibly appeal to the security services — many supporters come from the army, or former KGB — as a danger.

"Yeltsin is afraid of us. He is afraid of the people's growing anger against him," a front leader, Vyacheslav Kozlov, told Reuters. "We respect the constitution, but if we're banned, we will work more resolutely in whatever conditions we have to."

Parliament dealt a blow to Mr. Yeltsin last week by forcing a session of Russia's highest legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, for December.

Mr. Yeltsin, fearing attacks on his government, had sought a postponement until next year.

"The situation in Russia has worsened markedly with parliament's decision to convene a congress... in December," TASS quoted him as saying.

Kohl campaigns for Maastricht, rejects criticism of Germany

DUESSELDORF, Germany (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl warned Tuesday against resurgent nationalism in Western Europe and his out against critics charging united Germany was too powerful or too selfish for the continent's good.

The Maastricht Treaty on European Union was the best defence against nationalism and failure to ratify it would throw the European Community (EC) back by a generation, he told a congress of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) here.

Kohl did not name critics he said were whipping up emotions against Germany, accusing it of shirking its European duties and arguing for old-fashioned balance-of-power coalitions to hem in a feared German expansionism.

But he clearly hinted they were in Britain, where Bonn has been accused of pushing sterling out of the EC's Exchange Rate Mechan-

ism (ERM) but intervening to keep the French franc stable.

These fears of an overbearing Germany and turbulence in the ERM reinforced Germany's support for an integrated European Community, one advancing neither at two speeds nor at the pace of its slowest member, Mr. Kohl added.

"If the Maastricht Treaty is not implemented and we are set back along the road to Europe, it will be more than a generation before we have such a chance again," said the chancellor, who said his government would do all it could to get it ratified.

Criticism of Maastricht has mounted here, especially of its plans for a single currency, but Bonn will not have a referendum and should ratify it without problem by the end of this year.

"At the same time, we would run the risk that Europe's unwholy past would catch up with it," Mr. Kohl continued.

"Nobody should think the spectre of nationalism is finally dead in Europe or only at home in the Balkans."

In this context, Mr. Kohl said some people were trying to whip up emotions by saying Germany was too powerful and must be hemmed in by coalitions of other countries.

"This is 1992, not 1902" he exclaimed and added:

"I hear people say our ties to France are too close, there is a Paris-Bonn axis... a French-German hegemony. When things don't work, they accuse Germany of not living up to its duties."

"I'd rather be clobbered in public for this — that doesn't bother me at all — than have anyone accuse us of not learning the lessons of history and letting this old enmity continue."

The chancellor said he was firmly against isolating any EC member or trying to drive it to the fringes of the Community.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin backs Gaidar, Kozyrev

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin vowed Tuesday not to bow to conservative pressure to sack Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar at December's Congress of People's Deputies, Interfax News Agency said. "At a meeting of the collegium of the Foreign Ministry, (Yeltsin) said he had no intention of 'sacrificing' either Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar or Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev at the congress," Interfax said. Mr. Yeltsin has been under increasing pressure from conservative groups, communists and nationalists, to sack key members of his reformist government and adopt alternative economic policies.

Japanese emperor arrives in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (AP) — Japanese Emperor Akihito, wrapping up an unprecedented trip to China, said Tuesday he felt satisfied his journey would help deepen the often fragile relations between the two major Asian nations. "I expressed myself frankly to the Chinese people," Emperor Akihito said of a toast last Friday in which he said he deplored the "great sufferings" Japan inflicted on China during World War II. His remarks, made at a banquet given by President Yang Shangkun, were the strongest to date by an emperor regarding the war. "If people deal sincerely with each other heart to heart, I believe borders can be bridged," Emperor Akihito said at a brief news conference at the state guesthouse where he was staying. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrived Tuesday in Shanghai, the final stop on their six-day China trip. Following a two-night stay in Peking the imperial couple also visited the ancient capital of Xian.

North threatens to cut talks with Seoul

TOKYO (AP) — Communist North Korea threatened Tuesday to break off dialogue with South Korea if its capitalist rival resumes a joint military exercise with the United States next spring. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said the warning came in a resolution adopted at a joint meeting in the capital among representatives from the North Korean government, political parties and organisations concerned. North Korea was referring to "Team Spirit," an annual field exercise first held in 1976. It was cancelled this year to help promote dialogue between the two Koreas — bitter rivals since the division of their peninsula in 1945. But the South threatened last week to resume the exercise next year unless Pyongyang allowed inter-Korea inspections that would resolve suspicions that the North is developing nuclear weapons. Although the Koreans adopted a historical reconciliation accord in February, the nuclear issue has blocked an implementation of the agreement.

Separatists kill 30 in Senegal

DAKAR (R) — Separatist rebels killed 30 people including two paramilitary policemen in an attack on a fishing village in

Senegal's southern province of Casamance, official sources said Tuesday. Rebels apparently belonging to the separatist Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) attacked the village at about 11.00 p.m. Monday in the district of Oussouye, 600 kilometre south of Dakar, the sources added. Six people were seriously wounded. The village was inhabited by people from northern and central Senegal who move to the south for seasonal fishing.

Khmer Rouge 'will not honour election'

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The Khmer Rouge says it will not honour the results of any election held under the current political circumstances in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge signed a peace agreement a year ago to end a war against the Vietnamese-installed government. The accord authorised U.N. peacekeepers to stabilise the country for elections by May 1993. A senior Khmer Rouge official said Monday night that the U.N. peacekeepers, backed by Western countries, instead have been trying to prop up the Vietnamese-installed government so it will win the election and the Khmer Rouge will be destroyed. The Khmer Rouge, official Mak Ben said, will not participate in or honour the results of a poll held under the current circumstances. The group has made similar statements before. "It would legitimise the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. This would spell the end of Cambodia," he said. "So we will never accept this election and then there will be no peace in Cambodia." "We came here for peace. I'm sorry that the (Khmer Rouge) doesn't realise that," U.N. peacekeeping operation spokesman Eric Falt said Tuesday.

Gunman kills 5 in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — A man armed with a shotgun killed five people and severely wounded two others north of Sydney late Tuesday before giving himself up, Australian police said. Three people were killed in the coastal tourist town of Terrigal, about 60 kilometres north of Sydney, and one each in the nearby communities of Wyong and Bateau Bay. The man, in his 40s, later gave himself up in the town of Toukley north of Terrigal.

Petra Kelly buried in Germany

WUERZBURG, Germany (R) — German Greens Party founder Petra Kelly, found shot dead in mysterious circumstances last week, was buried Monday next to the grave of her half-sister in the southern town of Wuerzburg. Ms. Kelly, 44, was killed by her partner and former army Major General Gert Bastian, 69, who then shot himself. Investigators are still unsure whether Ms. Kelly had agreed to the shooting. Some 500 friends, colleagues and followers paid their last respects to the passionate environmental and human rights activist who was buried next to her half-sister Grace, who died of cancer at the age of 10. Three years after Grace's 1970 death, Ms. Kelly, then 26, founded a charity for children with cancer.

Bush mixes attacks on Clinton with policy prescriptions

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush is beginning to flesh out his campaign message of "economic renewal" with specific ideas for implementing his plan, a move designed to persuade voters one week from election day that Mr. Bush can deliver.

Mr. Bush pulled campaign overseer James Baker into the limelight as he dashed toward the Nov. 3 finish line.

Democratic challenger Bill Clinton, still leading in the national polls, ended his eighth and final bus tour in Georgia then was heading to Florida to campaign for that key battleground state — and stayed out of the duel between the Republican camp and independent Ross Perot.

Mr. Perot had no public events scheduled after his remarkable news conference Monday in which he leveled unsubstantiated accusations of dirty tricks by the Republicans and attacked the media.

Mr. Bush's travels were taking him through three states where Mr. Clinton leads in the polls. Kentucky, with eight electoral votes, and Ohio, with 21, were in Mr. Bush's column in 1988. The Democrats took Iowa, with seven electoral votes, last time.

The president used a friendly audience of hardware dealers in Denver Monday to attempt for the first time to spell out how he would put his economic agenda

into focus, and to sharpen the focus on philosophical differences with Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Bush said he would take these steps to get his economic plan into action after Nov. 3:

— Create a "steering group" of members of Congress to make sure his legislative proposals for the economy don't get bogged down in partisan bickering.

— Meet with each new member of Congress before the legislative body convenes in January. He said there would be at least 100 new members in the coming session of Congress, and that this would smooth the way for his proposals.

— Assemble a "defence conversion council" to plan ways of converting military production lines to civilian uses and to restrain military personnel. To pay for this he said he would create a "fund for future generations" to provide seed money to promote joint ventures between defence and civilian companies "to use the knowledge we've gained from building weapons to build a stronger economy."

— Make sure that \$150 billion in new federal funds for highways "gets to the states just as soon as possible and get those steamrollers moving quickly."

Later, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mr. Bush returned to the theme that has dominated his recent campaign speeches: Mr. Clinton can't be trusted and

won't win despite what the polls say.

"Ignore the pundits, annoy the media, let the people decide who's going to win this election," Mr. Bush shouted as an enormous pink, inflated pig floated overhead. "The reason I'll win this election is I've tried very hard to keep the public trust."

Mr. Perot Monday backed angrily away from his charges of Republican "dirty tricks" as White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater called the Texan a "paranoid person" with "crazy theories."

The Republicans also urged voters to switch to President Bush from Mr. Perot just eight days before the Nov. 3 election — an effort to capitalise on a sudden shrinking of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton's opinion poll leads.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll taken Friday and Saturday showed Mr. Clinton's lead over Mr. Bush down to 7 points, 39 to 32 per cent, with Mr. Perot at 20 per cent.

Just last week Mr. Clinton was ahead by double digits.

Aware the race could slip out of his grasp in the final full week before votes are cast, Mr. Clinton campaigned hard and fast Monday, setting out on yet another southern bus trip.

Although he has lost his formidable lead over Mr. Bush due to the late surge for Mr. Perot, a

Clinton campaign pollster said Monday he thought Mr. Perot had gone as high as he would.

"I think he has peaked," Stan Greenberg told Reuters in Mr. Clinton's Arkansas headquarters. "He's a bump, not a rise."

It was unclear how the latest race over smear tactics would play with a public more interested in the nitty-gritty of everyday life than sensational scandal. But the focus from both major parties on long-shot Perot shows the Texan's power to muddy the race in a strange election year.

In changing tactics on the smear campaign, Mr. Perot urged the media Monday to drop it and get back to the issues.

"What this has to do with anything current I don't know," he told reporters at a surprise news conference in Dallas.

Mr. Perot said Sunday he dropped out of the race in July due to "dirty tricks" by the Republicans, who he said threatened to smear his daughter Caroline and disrupt her wedding.

But on Monday, the independent candidate said he took a White House denial at face value, blasting reporters for twisting the facts time and again.

"I didn't want anything on this to come up because of Caroline. But I accept their denial," Mr. Perot said.

"As you run your bizarre stories and your twisted, slanted stor-

ies, just remember that on multiple occasions the Republican Party had a chance to look me in the eye and say 'Ross, after you told us about this we looked into it and there's not a word of truth to it.' Nobody ever brought it up."

Mr. Fitzwater again denied Mr. Perot's original accusations as "ludicrous," and launched a sharp, unusually personal attack on the billionaire businessman.

"I think the news media needs to look into this," he said. "They're the only ones left who can investigate this and prevent us from electing a paranoid person who has delusions. This man cannot simply see the truth."

"I'm asking a responsible news media, who's going to listen to this man's charges and carry his crazy theories, to at least look into the veracity and report to the American people," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Hours earlier Vice President Dan Quayle courted Perot backers.

"I'd like to make an appeal to the Ross Perot supporters," Mr. Quayle told ABC's Good Morning America. "This president is the one that can shake things up. We're the ones for change."

Mr. Clinton, appearing on CBS's This Morning programme, said the appeal to Perot backers one day after the "dirty tricks" war was a desperate tactic. He said Perot supporters should back him.

COLUMN

Governor-general makes first parachute jump

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Governor-General Dame Catherine Tizard made her first parachute jump Tuesday and said it was the thrill of her life. Harassed to experienced parachutist Mac MacCarthy, 61-year-old Dame Catherine — the British queen's representative in New Zealand — leapt from a light plane 2,800 metres above the seaside town of Paraparaumu, 30 kilometres north of Wellington, to raise money for a charity for the blind. "It was a wonderful excuse for doing something I've wanted to do all my life. Isn't it nice to know you're never too old?" It was the thrill of a lifetime, she said after landing near the target in perfect weather.

Queen Elizabeth attends show in her honour

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II, who this year is celebrating the 40th anniversary of her accession, attended a spectacular show dedicated to British successes in entertainment, sport and industry since she came to the throne in 1952. The show, organised by a body called the Royal Anniversary Trust as a salute to the monarch, was supposed to last 90 minutes but overrun by another 75 minutes. London's Earls Court Exhibition Centre was transformed into a giant stage as the queen and her family watched from the royal box. At one point, the stage held hundreds of members of a choir, a full orchestra and a cavalryman with horses and cannons.

The show also featured dancers of the Royal Ball and sporting heroes like Sir Roger Bannister, who in 1954 became the first man in the history of athletics to run a mile (1.6 km) in under 4 minutes, and runner Steve Cram. The queen, in keeping with tradition, came to the throne immediately on the death of her father, King George VI, on Feb. 6, 1952. She was crowned on June 2, 1953.

Australian lotto man breaks good news to himself

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian dubbed "Mr. Millions" because he breaks the news to big lottery winners was congratulating himself Tuesday after picking all six correct numbers and winning a first prize. Glyn Parry, 37, won Australian dollar 104,000 (\$74,000) as one of 10 players to share the top division of the New South Wales bi-weekly competition, a spokeswoman for Lotto said. "Now I know how all those people really feel. I'm like jelly inside," Mr. Parry told reporters. Mr. Parry, who each week gives away at least Australian dollars 1 million (\$710,000) on Mondays and Australian dollars 500,000 (\$355,000) Thursdays, was celebrating with the champagne he always takes with him to winners' homes. He has handed over nearly Australian dollars 200 million (\$142 million) in the past two years.

Ukrainian counterfeiters think small

KIEV (R) — Counterfeiters in western Ukraine, in a new race to beat vigilant shop assistants, have printed smaller denominations of the increasingly worthless Ukrainian coupon. Police confiscated counterfeit notes of 25 and 50 denomination coupons in six towns in Volyn district bordering Poland, Ukrainian Television said. Monthly salaries average about 4,000 coupons — the interim Ukrainian currency pending introduction of a separate currency — and a 50-coupon note can buy less than a kg (two pounds) of tomatoes or apples at free market prices. The television also reported on operations to round up counterfeit notes in eastern Ukraine, where shops and street routinely check notes of 100 or 200 coupons.

Poisonous snakes popular among drug dealers

BOULDER, Colorado (R) — Drug dealers are increasingly using poisonous snakes to guard their merchandise and money and sometimes to transport their contraband, the University of Colorado at Boulder said. David Chiszar, an animal behaviourist in the university's Psychology Department, said a large variety of highly venomous reptiles have been found with drug dealers, including rattlesnakes, cobras, African vipers and tiger snakes.



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton waves to supporters at the start of a campaign bus tour of North Carolina (AFP photo)

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا من لاجل"